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IDF report slams Levine over handling of officer's death

ALON PINKAS

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amram Levine will receive a "remark" in his personal file for displaying poor judgment while discussing the details of Maj. Kiwan Hamed's death, according to an army investigation whose recommendations were accepted yesterday.

Levine was also cited for failing to report the details in full to Hamed's family.

Brig.-Gen. Giora Inbar, commander of the IDF liaison unit with Lebanon, also received a remark in his file, and two other officers may receive a similar remark.

A "remark" is classified as a "command measure," short of a disciplinary reprimand, and usually means very little and has no bearing on an officer's promotion prospects.

Former chief of general staff Moshe Levy, appointed last month to investigate the circumstances of Hamed's death in a battle in Lebanon on December 19, 1994, determined that "kill verification" by IDF soldiers did not cause Hamed's death.

According to Levy's 56-page report, submitted yesterday to Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and to Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Hamed may have been shot by IDF soldiers, but only after he was hit by enemy fire, probably fatally.

"Maj. Hamed was found about 10 meters from where the attackers were. Many bullet wounds were found on his body, especially in the forehead, chest, and groin... these findings indicate that he was shot in the very first stages of the battle," the report says.

In the story published in the Haifa local paper *Kol Bo*, which precipitated the investigation, an allegation was made that Hamed's death was a result of kill verification, in which soldiers shoot at the enemy as long as they are perceived to constitute a threat, to verify their death. The IDF denies kill verification exists.

In his report, Levy says he found no evidence that kill verification took place. But in the chapter devoted to Ground Corps Command, he warns that "throughout the testimonies I compiled, it became clear to me that a dangerous lack of clarity exists pertaining to... 'kill verification'."

Levine was accused of not telling Hamed's family the entire truth about their son's death, and then making things worse by telling the *Kol Bo* reporter that "the Druse have sensitivities and there are problems with their faith, so not everything was divulged to them."

The report condemns Levine's judgment, although Levy found that the general procedures of notifying families are proper and appropriate.

Shaath: Rabin needs peace to be reelected

AMMAN (Reuters) - Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will fail to be reelected in 1996 unless he secures peace, Nabil Shaath said yesterday.

Shaath, in Amman for an Arab-Israeli foreign ministers meeting on Palestinian refugees today, dismissed a warning by Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin that next summer is the deadline for an Israeli-Syrian peace accord because of US and Israeli elections the following year.

"If you wait till the elections he is sure going to lose the elections," Shaath told Reuters.

Refugee conference
Christopher visit, Page 2



SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad receives an explanation from Col. Zion Gazit during a visit to Yad Vashem yesterday. (Story, Page 2) (Brian Hendler)

Dollar tumbles to post-war low against yen, mark

JOSE ROSENFELD
and news agencies

THE dollar fell to a post-war low against the Japanese yen and tumbled against the German mark yesterday, after buying by central banks last week failed to halt its slide.

The slide was also felt in local trading, as the dollar lost 0.5 percent against the shekel, and the shekel fell nearly 1% against the currency basket.

Based on the dollar's record lows, economists expected it to drop more sharply against the shekel, and explained the moderate decrease as the result of the Bank of Israel's intervention.

The dollar's shekel exchange rate barely budged last year, but recently started to drop. The failure of the shekel to devalue to reflect last year's 14.5% inflation has increased private sector pressure on the central bank for a one-time devaluation to reverse the erosion in profitability from an overvalued shekel.

As a result, the Bank of Israel may have intervened to moderate the dollar's slide.

Bank of Israel spokesman Ohad Bar-Efrat would neither confirm nor deny such intervention, saying the central bank does not report what it does in a particular day in the foreign currency market.

The currency basket rose 0.99% to NIS 3.441, while the dollar fell to NIS 2.968. Against the mark, which traded at NIS 2.1208, the shekel lost

3.04%. Similarly, the shekel fell 2.37% against the British pound to NIS 4.9054, and 2.53% against the French franc to NIS 0.5991.

The shekel fell a more moderate 1.72% against the yen to NIS 3.1873.

Tokyo stocks closed mixed in light trading, while share prices elsewhere in Asia fell on concern over the dollar.

The dollar was traded at 93.36 yen at 0700 GMT, down 1.92 yen from late Friday and also well below its 94.04 yen in late New York trading Friday.

The dollar also was trading at 1.4015 German marks, below 1.4245 marks late Friday in New York and 1.4425 marks in Tokyo late Friday.

Rabin: Israel-Pentagon ties could be 'lost'

LIAT COLLINS

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin added a new word, "pfeiffen" (lost), to his political lexicon yesterday.

This is what Israel-Pentagon relations will be if the right has its way, Rabin reportedly told his Knesset faction. He also accused Labor MK Avigdor Kahalani of aiding the opposition by his visit to the US tonight on behalf of the Third Way Movement.

"Israel finds itself with certain problems regarding its relationship with the US as a result of the activities of the right wing. In the US, there is talk of reconsidering aid to Israel, and there are those who say the aid should be channeled through the Defense Department budget," Rabin reportedly said. "There could be no greater mistake. It will cause a confrontation between Israel and the Pentagon. That's all we need. Everything we've built

during the last 20 years will go pfeiffen." Kahalani denied the charges and repeated that the Likud is not funding his visit, and insisting he has never smeared the government. "Why don't you speak to me before you attack me?" Kahalani said.

Rabin said the problem was the atmosphere that this sort of visit causes in the US. He said the right-wing is pandering to American isolationist tendencies.

Kahalani asked why Rabin thought the visit would cause harm rather than good. "After all, I don't oppose an American presence on the Golan Heights. Why are you attacking me?"

"You don't see the way things are developing," Rabin reportedly countered. "There are those among us who strengthen the opponents of the peace process."

Shahal: Charges will be filed soon in Histadrut fraud

BILL HUTMAN

"intelligence work" on the Histadrut had been going on for more than a year. But, he said, there was no formal investigation until recently.

MK Shamai: Police refused to probe Histadrut two years ago
Page 2

CHARGES will be filed soon against some of the suspects in the Histadrut fraud case, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said last night.

Shahal also revealed that a police probe of the Histadrut has been under way since September 1993. Until now, police have said the investigation was opened only several months ago.

The investigation was carried out in secret until recently, Shahal told the *Mabat* news show.

Senior police sources earlier in the day contradicted Shahal's statements. They told *The Jerusalem Post* it would be some time before charges were brought against any of the suspects.

The sources confirmed that

Shahal, meanwhile, vowed not to intervene in the investigation, which mostly involves suspects in his own Labor Party. "I have always maintained a policy that investigations must be color-blind to political parties," Shahal said. "The prime minister has never intervened in any way in an investigation. For rea-

sons of courtesy, I have updated him" about investigations, but only about proceedings that have already been completed.

The National Fraud Squad again interrogated Uzi Fassa, activities department coordinator with the Histadrut-owned Mifalei Tarbut V'hinuh company.

Fassa has already given police tapes he made of conversations with senior Labor Party officials in which they discuss ways to transfer Histadrut funds to their personal coffers.

He has also turned over documents detailing the wrongdoings of Labor officials, according to police sources. The material is presently being reviewed by investigators.

(Continued on Page 2)

Harish: Histadrut probe could deal Labor a very serious blow

SARAH HONIG

could lead. Our fervent hope is that the police will conclude their business as speedily as possible."

Labor is described as panicky about a possible chain reaction of recriminations, some of which is already apparent. The party, it was widely suggested, must now take damage control measures and seek to keep the police investigation as short as possible.

Lengthy investigations and numerous revelations of wrongdoing could hurt Labor so much

that its electoral prospects would be further eroded, and it could become unattractive enough for new recruits - like former chief of staff Ehud Barak - to eventually shun it.

In addition, Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon's return to Labor might be jeopardized, because he and the previous Histadrut administration would again be at war with each other.

Some in Labor fear the party might be unable to proceed with the next primaries or even the

(Continued on Page 2)

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Mizrahi's Bloomberg resigns

NEIL COHEN

UNITED Mizrahi Bank managing director David Bloomberg announced last night that he will resign immediately, although he has told the board he will stay on until a replacement is found.

The bank said that Bloomberg felt that, with the change in the bank's ownership, he wanted to give the new owners a chance to appoint a managing director of their choosing.

However, it is understood that Bloomberg was not comfortable with having to report to strong-minded owners. The bank emphasized that there had been no conflict between Bloomberg and the new owners.

Full story, Page 8

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Bomb kills SLA man, wounds 2

A SOUTH Lebanon Army soldier was killed and two others wounded yesterday, when a roadside bomb exploded in the south Lebanon security zone.

The blast, near Houla in the eastern sector, occurred shortly after 9 a.m. as an SLA patrol was passing.

IDF tanks and artillery and SLA mortars hit Hizbullah strongholds and infiltration routes north of the zone, both before and following the bombing.

ALON PINKAS

A Lebanese police statement said Israeli attack helicopter conducted reconnaissance sorties over the region Sunday night, drawing anti-aircraft fire from Lebanese army positions. No hits were reported.

The IDF did not comment on the artillery fire or on the helicopter sorties, continuing its three-week policy of not commenting on military activities in Lebanon.

Late last night, Reuters reported

that Lebanese army gunners fired anti-aircraft weapons at Israeli planes flying over the suburbs of Beirut, according to Lebanese military sources and witnesses.

Meanwhile, navy patrol boats continued to enforce the naval blockade on Tyre, Sidon, Zaharani, and Damour. The blockade began a month ago, although the IDF denied that a full blockade had been im-

posed and said last week that Lebanese fishing boats are being searched for supplies intended for Hizbullah.

Israel has also denied that the siege is meant to exert pressure on the Beirut government to cease Lebanese army restrictions on and harassment of travelers to and from the security zone.

Lebanon claims the restrictions are necessary to guard against alleged car bombs moving north.

Security zone is 'conquered' territory, says SLA chief Lahad

LIAT COLLINS and Itim

SOUTH Lebanon Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad yesterday called the security zone territory "conquered" by Israel.

"Lebanon won't have the freedom to decide for itself or form its own opinions as long as part of it is under Syrian conquest, and another part - the security zone - under Israeli conquest," he said during a visit to Jerusalem.

Lahad was in the city as a guest of Councilman Yehoram Gaon, whom he had recently hosted in his home in Lebanon.

Lahad came under strong verbal fire during a visit to the Knesset. The incident came unexpectedly during a plenum discussion on economic policy, when Speaker Shevah Weiss noted Lahad and some of his

staff were in the visitors' gallery. Tamar Gozansky (Hadash), who was addressing the house at the time, took the opportunity to attack the government's policy on Lebanon.

"Look what you're pouring our money into," she called out.

She was joined by other Hadash and Arab Democratic Party MKs, who accused Lahad of being "a mercenary," "a member of the foreign legion," and "a traitor to his people and land."

Lahad, who had earlier visited the Supreme Court, Mayor Ehud Ol-

mert's office, and Yad Vashem, was taken back by the onslaught.

"I came in my own name and in the name of the SLA, not in the name of the Lebanese government," he clarified at a hastily called press conference. "I came to see how the democratic process works in a country which has stood as a symbol of democracy. There are people here who don't understand what's going on in the Middle East. We are more Arab than [MK] Hashem Mahmed and the other [hecklers]; they don't know who the Arabs are."

David Mena (Likud) said he would file a complaint over the incident with the Ethics Committee.

"It's particularly bad as an affront to traditional hospitality," Gaon noted.

Christopher comes without bridging proposal

HILLEL KUTTLER and DAVID MAKOVSKY

US SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher will not bring a bridging proposal during his visit to the region this week to break the Israel-Syria deadlock, two senior Clinton administration officials indicated yesterday.

Christopher, who departs from Washington today for a Middle East tour, is expected to arrive here on Thursday after stopping in Egypt. Christopher will then continue on to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and then Syria on Sunday before returning here.

"My definition of activity doesn't necessarily mean that the US is presenting a bridging proposal, a senior Clinton administration official said, in a briefing for reporters on the eve of the visit. "The US can have all sorts of ideas that may not be bridging proposals per se."

The US has so far refrained from issuing such a proposal due to opposition from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who so far sees any American proposal as

creating pressure on Israel to modify its own position.

The US has apparently not precluded the option of issuing such a paper in the future when the two sides are closer than they are now.

The US official suggested that Christopher would focus his effort on the more modest goal of seeking to restart talks on security arrangements involving Israeli and Syrian military chiefs that were halted after their first round in December.

"We feel that we were at the point in mid-December...in order to build upon the important understanding that it is important to make headway on the security arrangements," the senior administration official said. "Our activity and ideas will take lots of different forms."

Sources say Damascus halted these talks after then-IDF chief

of staff Ehud Barak put forward tough demands. Another senior US official said "Syria thought if it was sending its No. 2 man of the regime [Gen. Hikmet] Shihabi, Israel would be offering something very different. When this did not happen, Syria decided not to resume those talks."

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told American correspondents that Syria should be on notice that unless a breakthrough occurs by summer, it will be too late, since both Washington and Jerusalem will shortly thereafter be entering their respective 1996 election cycles.

However, in yesterday's Washington briefing, the senior US official said the US has no timetable in mind for producing a breakthrough on the Israeli-Syrian track, despite Beilin's statement.

"Certainly, he is in a better position to judge his political reality, and we will judge our political reality," a senior administration official said. "Our position is that we need to make progress as soon as possible."

Egypt said yesterday it was unfair of Israel to test Syria by demanding full normalization of ties in return for a first-phased small withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Rabin, making the proposal on Saturday, said a similar test period applied when Israel handed back the Sinai to Egypt under the 1979 peace treaty.

But Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said: "This is unacceptable. It is impossible to place a country under a test. If a test is necessary, then all parties must be tested."

Rabin said Israel had "the right to test the normalization [of relations with Syria] on the basis of a very small withdrawal [from the Golan Heights]."

Refugee talks could set precedent

BACKGROUND

JON IMMANUEL

FOUR-way talks at Foreign Ministry level open in Amman today to discuss the future of Palestinians uprooted by the Six Day War.

During today's one-day meeting, Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians will try to establish a format for continuing talks on an issue which goes to the heart of the Palestinian issue - the right of return.

Israeli government estimates for the number of 1967 "displaced persons" is between 200,000 and 220,000, which does not include offspring. In past discussions with Palestinians, Israel has not recognized the right of offspring to return.

The Palestinians put the number of displaced persons, with offspring, at more than 800,000, based on those registered in Jordan - where most of them live.

Israel divides the number into three categories - those who left, those who were expelled and those who were out of the country when the Six Day War erupted on June 5, 1967.

Most were outside the country when the war broke out, although many fled. According to Palestinians, in at least two cases - Kalkiya and Jericho refugee camps - people were forced out.

The way the subject is handled could set a precedent for the far thornier issue of 1948 refugees, to be discussed in final settlement talks. Israel recognizes 590,000 refugees from that war. UNRWA puts the number with offspring at 2.5 million.

The 1967 displaced persons issue was included in the 1979

Camp David agreement, which stated that "during the transitional period, representatives of Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the self-governing authority will constitute a continuing committee to decide by agreement on the modalities of admission of persons displaced from the West Bank and Gaza in 1967, together with necessary measures to prevent disruption and disorder."

The wording was copied almost exactly in Article 12 of the Oslo agreement.

Since its signing in September 1993, 2,000 families a year - some 10,000 people - have been allowed to return each year within the framework of family reunification. In addition, several hundred expelled and displaced persons, with their families, have returned as policemen and Palestinian Authority officials.

Israel is likely to argue that the number of returnees should be limited by the capacity of the Palestinian Authority to absorb them. Otherwise, their return could cause economic and security problems. Israel is likely at a later stage to offer compensation to those who decide not to return.

The Palestinians will argue that most of those uprooted have families here with whom they can stay and are therefore not difficult to absorb. "The Palestinians will accept the principle of a timetable, but since it will be based on the Palestinian ability to provide work and housing, it is an internal matter not a bilateral one," said former Washington negotiator Ghassan Khatib.

SHAHAL

(Continued from Page 1)

MK Shmuel Avital will present more material that incriminates Labor members to police today, Channel One reported.

Police sources said investigators are concentrating on uncovering material showing that Labor officials used Histadrut money to fund their 1992 Knesset primary campaigns and last year's Histadrut election.

Evidence showing wrongdoing before 1992 has also been uncovered, but it is being set aside, for the meantime, to concentrate on the more recent period, the sources said.

Several Labor officials in the Histadrut apparently used funds earmarked for their offices in the organization to help run their primary campaigns, according to the police.

Histadrut sources said Labor illegally obtained some NIS 30 million in Histadrut funds for last year's labor federation election. Deputy Minister Masha Lubelsky, former Na'amat chairwoman, and former Histadrut secretary-general Haim Haber-

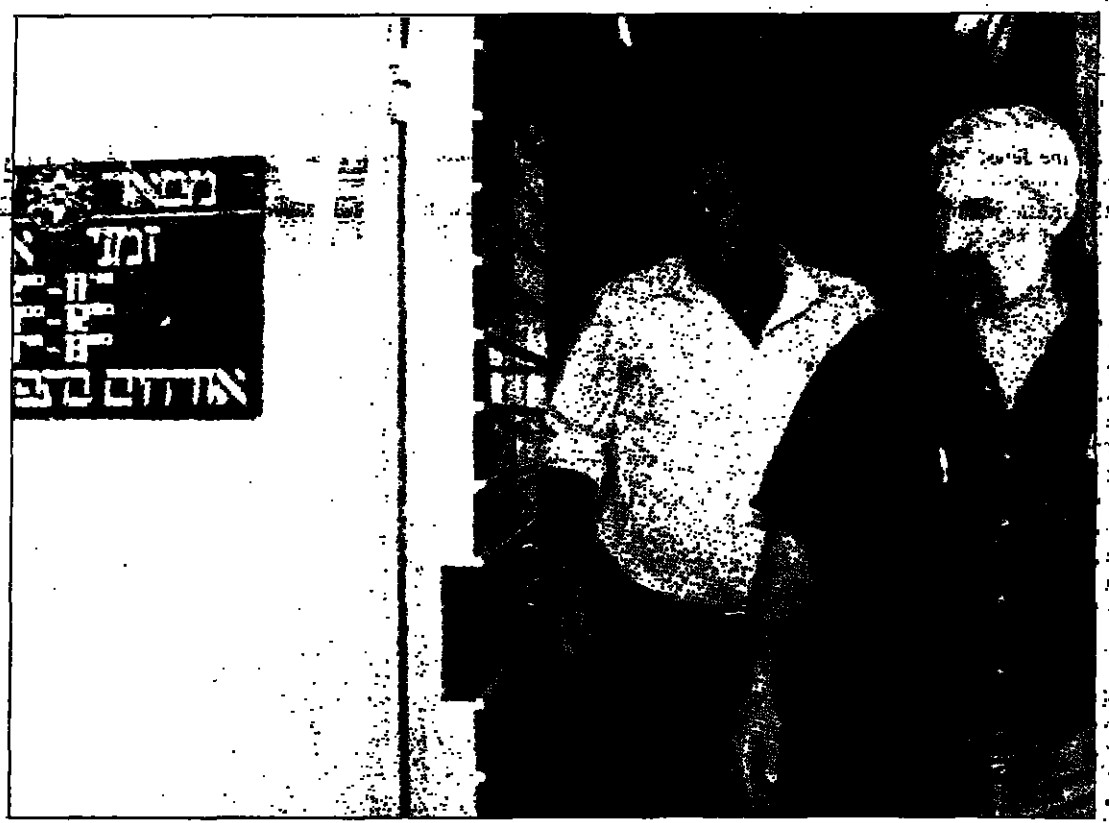
feld have already been interrogated by police.

Police sources refused to say whether Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar, also a former Histadrut secretary-general, would be interrogated. Kessar is accused of diverting Histadrut funds to his campaign for the Labor nomination for the premiership in 1992. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Kessar's spokesman said that, despite reports to the contrary, Kessar has not been questioned by the police.

Histadrut sources, meanwhile, said that the lack of early leaks of the investigation to the media reflects the "I watch your back, you watch my back" attitude within the organization.

"It was not just by chance that the police came to the Treasury offices and took documents [last month], but only a week later did the story reach the media," said one source. "In most normal organizations such an event would have been known to the public within minutes."



Uzi Fassa (left), activities department coordinator with the Histadrut-owned Mifalei Tarbut V'hinuh company, is shown at National Fraud Squad headquarters, where he was questioned by police yesterday.

(Continued from Page 1) membership drive that must precede them. The most worrisome prediction, however, is that unprecedented infighting would be sparked.

A possible foretaste was offered when MK Yoram Lass accused Ramon and his associate Amir Peretz of being as guilty of exploiting Histadrut facilities for electioneering as they accuse Laborites of doing.

"It galls me that the present heads of the Histadrut, who self-righteously assume the pose of the accusers and wash their own hands of blame, enjoyed the same Histadrut facilities as others in Labor," Lass said.

"Let Lass go to the police," Peretz replied. "No one can challenge my record. My insurance policy is my overdraft at the bank."

A similar line was adopted by others involved in the recriminations.

Deputy Trade and Industry Minister Masha Lubelsky, who headed last year's Labor Histadrut campaign and was questioned by police, denied taking part in any pre-election meeting in which "the party heads supposedly plotted to finance the campaign with Histadrut funds."

"I was responsible for campaign expenditures from the Labor Party side and was not involved in internal Histadrut goings on," Lubelsky said. "I never heard of any such meeting."

In addition, she denied knowing about a NIS 600,000 pay-

HISTADRUT

ment, also from Histadrut coffers, to finance spying on Ramon in the hope of finding dirt on him.

Meir Gat, now head of the Histadrut administrative wing and then chairman of the information drive of the Labor campaign, likewise denied knowing about any meeting to cover up Histadrut financing for Labor. "I nev-

er took part in any such schemes, had no financial dealings and didn't write out any fictional invoices or receipts."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who on Sunday was confident that "the possible misdeeds of individuals would not rub off on Labor," vowed yesterday to "stop commenting on the issue until the police finish their job. I can't judge, and the innocent should be presumed innocent."

Meet the Author - Bob Rockaway

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Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

Announcement by the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

New immigrants whose health insurance coverage was arranged by the Ministry up to the time the new National Health Insurance Law came into effect, and who have already paid their health dues for January 1995 and following months, are entitled to a refund for those months.

To apply for refunds, immigrants should bring the original receipts of payment to their nearest branch of the Ministry before March 15, 1994. No requests for refunds submitted after that date will be accepted.

Immigrants will not be reimbursed immediately, but payment will be made as soon as possible.

Prof. FRIEDRICH SALOMON ROTHSCHILD ז"ל

has passed away in old age.

The funeral took place yesterday,
Monday, March 6, 1995

Dr. Margot Rothschild and family

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Joan Lazarus and family, and to
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שכנא מן האוהלי



Following the brit of Shalom Rokeah, hassidim gather to celebrate the event. From right to left are the father, Aharon Mordechai Rokeah; Vishnitzer Rebbe Moshe Yehoshua Hager; and Belzer Rebbe Yissachar Dov Rokeah.

Belz hassidim celebrate brit of rebbe's grandson

HERB KEINON

THE streets were closed to traffic, thousands of hassidim donned their finest clothes and strawberry soft drink flowed from water faucets.

It was a festival day yesterday in Jerusalem's Kiryat Belz neighborhood, as thousands of Belz hassidim attended the brit of Shalom Rokeah, the first grandson of Belzer Rebbe Yissachar Dov Rokeah.

"Even as he has been introduced into the covenant, so may he be introduced to the Torah, to the hupa and to a life of good deeds," the hassidim sang over and over again, upon after the circumcision was completed. "It is a day of gladness for the rebbe, for the hassidim and for all the Jews," the song continued in Yiddish.

Hassidim jammed into every available space in an ancillary hall next to the Kiryat Belz World Center, where bleachers were set up for people to watch the proceedings. As the congregation began singing "Siman Tov u'Mazel Tov," the master of ceremonies yelled at the crowd to get down from the podium because it was in danger of collapsing under the weight of too many people.

Among the haredi luminaries who attended the ceremony, and whose entrances and exits were accompanied by a rush of hassidim pushing to get a glimpse, were the two heads of Agudat Yisrael's Council of Sages - Gerer Rebbe Pinhas Menachem Alter and Vishnitzer Rebbe Moshe Yehoshua Hager, one of the child's great grandfathers who served as the sandek.

The boy's father, Aharon Mordechai, performed the brit himself. The mother, Sara Lea, sat out the ceremony in her own apartment.

Thousands of other women sat in a nearby hall and watched the proceedings via closed circuit television.

"We waited a long time for this,"

said Belz spokesman Yisrael Eichler, explaining the joy of the hassidim. "The Nazis tried to wipe us out, but this shows that we live on and thrive."

The Belz hassidim, which flourished in Galicia, were decimated by the Nazis, and the former Belz rebbe, Aaron, lost 33 relatives in the Holocaust.

The current rebbe is the previous rebbe's nephew and, according to Eichler, "built up everything here with his own hands. We waited 11 years for the rebbe to have a son, so the brit of his grandson is very significant for us," he said.

The baby was named after the founder of the Belz dynasty, Shalom Rokeah.

Some 3,000 Belz hassidim flew in from abroad, mostly from the US, for the various ceremonies and festivities which have been going on in Kiryat Belz since Friday.

One visitor from New York, who would not identify himself, said he flew into the country for four days "to take part in the rebbe's celebration. He cares for each of us and comes to our celebrations. It is natural we want to take part in his."

The man was holding a yellow commemorative booklet of the brit that was selling briskly in the neighborhood for NIS 7.

Immediately after the brit, the thousands of hassidim filed past the rebbe to wish him well. This reception took place in the Belz Beit Midrash and had the air of a military operation, as ushers - many of them holding cellular phones - controlled the crowd by continuously opening and closing doors.

Wherever the rebbe went, his own special chair was brought to him.

The reception was followed by an outdoor lunch for thousands, and a *zish* - where the hassidim watch and sing as the rebbe eats - that lasted well into the evening.

Shohat, Knesset panel defend importance of Israel Bonds

EVELYN GORDON

THE Israel Bonds Organization continues to serve an important purpose, and there is no reason to consider dismantling it, most of the Knesset Finance Committee agreed yesterday.

The committee was discussing a motion for the agenda by Sallah Tarif (Labor), who suggested that the group may have outlived its purpose.

"The money Israel Bonds raises is not cheap money. It's expensive money," he said, claiming that bonds costs some \$50 million a year. "And this has no educational connection to the Jewish people. It's an economic matter."

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Bonds director Natti Sharoni, however, indignantly denied these charges.

Sharoni noted that the cost of raising money via bonds has decreased steadily over the past few years, and as of last year was only 0.76 percent above the Labor rate.

"The costs are competitive with other ways of raising money," he said.

Shohat added that this decrease has been possible partly because the organization is now adjusting inter-

est rates once a month. Previously, he said, such adjustments were made only infrequently, so the bonds' interest rates were often much higher than rates on the open market.

Accountant-General Reuven Kolkovich also stressed the importance of the bonds. For the past three years, he said, bonds have accounted for about 60% of Israel's capital-raising - even though sales declined to \$999m. last year from a 1992 peak of \$1.17 billion.

Bonds are especially important during emergencies, when other sources of capital tend to dry up, he added, noting that Israel Bond sales of have risen during every war.

Shohat also stressed the organization's role in maintaining a relationship between Israel and the diaspora. For this purpose, he said, the organization has been instructed to try to increase sales to individual Jews, rather than concentrating on financial institutions.

The effect of this instruction has already been felt, Shohat added. In 1993, 54% of the money raised came from institutions and 30% from individuals, while in 1994, 49% came from individuals and 38% from institutions.

Rabin: Violence against women must be stopped

BATSHEVA TSUR

"VIOLENCE against women must be eradicated from Israeli society," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday.

"We are living in a period when women are struggling for equality. But recently we have been witness to the most severe incidents of violence against women, both inside and outside the family," Rabin told participants in a conference devoted to the role of women in the civil service.

Meanwhile, a majority of Israelis (58 percent) believe that the media should not have revealed the name of a Hebrew University professor who allegedly beat his wife, on the grounds that even a family in which there is violence is entitled to privacy.

This is the conclusion of a survey carried out by the Geocartography Institute on Sunday, following the weekend publications on the subject.

On the other hand, 32% of those polled said that the media had done the right thing in publishing his name, because it is in the public's interest. The survey found. The remainder were undecided. Some 44% of the respondents said they opposed a call by the National Students' Union to suspend the professor, while 39% said he should not be allowed to continue teaching. The remaining respondents were undecided. The survey was conducted among a representative sample of 515 Jewish adults in different parts of the country. The alleged offender, Prof. Adi Zemah, is currently on sabbatical.

The university stands by its original position that, where there is no police investigation nor indictment, "the university does not have the right to act as a summary court martial," spokesman Jerry Barash said.

Policy of mandatory polygraph tests to be reexamined

ALON PINKAS

MANDATORY polygraph tests for senior government officials may be reexamined following Elyakim Rubinstein's refusal to take such a test.

2 of Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom.

Senior government, IDF, and General Security Service officials

are required to take the test.

Rubinstein refused even after he was told that the chief of general staff and his deputy had to take the test before assuming their posts. The tests are conducted jointly by the police and the GSS.

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'Shmulevitz file also missing from Adjutant's Branch'

THE prosecutor in the trial of former interior minister Aryeh Deri announced yesterday that the personal file of chief prosecution witness Ya'acov Shmulevitz is not in the IDF Adjutant's Branch.

Last week, he said the file was also not found in the IDF archive.

The defense is seeking the file because it has Shmulevitz's records from the army which show he may have suffered memory loss from a head injury. This would call into question his viability as a witness, the defense maintains.

The court has subpoenaed the file from the IDF. Meanwhile, cross-examination of Shmulevitz yesterday focused on his dealings with the defendants in the trial concerning the purchase of land for haredi housing at Nebi Samwil.

Deri defense lawyer Dan Avi-Yitzhak tried to show that either the witness's memory was not lucid or he had not given truthful testimony to police.

He asked Shmulevitz if he knew the names of a number of other people associated with the Nebi Samwil affair - Shmaryahu Cohen, deputy head of the housing ministry's Jerusalem district who opposed construction on the hill; and Yehuda Nahari

of the Israel Lands Administration. Shmulevitz said he did not remember any of those names.

Avi-Yitzhak then reminded Shmulevitz he had told police that he had been present at several meetings in which Deri, Moshe and Aryeh Weinberg, and Yom Tov-Rubin discussed ways of moving forward with the building project at Nebi Samwil. If that was so, Avi-Yitzhak asked, then how could he not be familiar with the names of the others?

Shmulevitz was also unable to recall the date or times of any of the meetings when the Nebi Samwil project was discussed.

Deri is on trial for charges of fraud, breach of trust and taking bribes. According to the indictment, Deri took bribes from his three co-defendants in the trial - Yom-Tov Rubin and Moshe and Aryeh Weinberg - in exchange for using his influence in the Interior Ministry to help three non-profit organizations in which all four were involved.

One group, Moresheet Binyamin, was forced to find alternative lands once it was realized that Nebi Samwil was unzoned for housing. Deri is suspected of taking bribes in return for using his influence to secure lands for the group. (Itim)

State: Shmulevitz was borrowed from Swiss and must be returned

EVELYN GORDON

THE state yesterday told the High Court of Justice that there would be no justification for failing to return Ya'acov Shmulevitz to Switzerland when he finishes his testimony, because this is not an extradition.

Shmulevitz is under investigation by the Swiss for corporate fraud. The court is to hear his petition not to be returned on Thursday.

Shmulevitz based his claim on the fact that under Israeli law, no Israeli can be extradited to a foreign country if he was an Israeli citizen at the time the crime was committed. However, in a response submitted yesterday, the state said this law is irrelevant, because the Swiss have not requested Shmulevitz's extradition. It was Israel who asked the Swiss for Shmulevitz - and under the

European convention on legal assistance to which both Israel and Switzerland are signatories, such a loan is possible only if the borrowing country returns the witness. Thus, the state said, the return is not an extradition, but an essential part of the loan process which brought Shmulevitz back to Israel in the first place.

While the treaty gives the person in question the right to refuse to the loan, the response continued, he does not have the right to refuse to return once he agrees to the loan.

Finally, the state noted, any other interpretation would kill Israel's chances of ever obtaining such assistance from another country again. It is clear, the state said, that the legislature could not have intended such a consequence.

Scrap metal dealer held on suspicion of fraud

RAINE MARCUS

A TEL AVIV scrap metal dealer suspected of supplying Gazans with false invoices in return for cash commission was placed under house arrest by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Arik Sabag was arrested on Sunday by the city's Customs and VAT authorities after officials discovered such invoices in the names of false companies.

Investigators alleged that around three months ago Sabag contacted Gaza residents and supplied them with invoices, listed in the names of fictitious Israeli companies.

The Gazans filled in sums amounting to hundreds of thousands of shekels then presented them to the Palestinian Authority, which in turn received VAT rebates from Israeli authorities.



Pictured is the cover of 'A Day in the Life of Israel,' one of the books in the international series, which was released this week in Hebrew. About 60 world-renowned photographers took part in the shoot on May 5, 1994.

Meshulam petitions against confiscation of his robe, cane

RAINE MARCUS

UZI Meshulam, sentenced to eight years in jail, petitioned the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday against the confiscation of his walking stick and white robe by the Prisons Service.

Warders forcibly removed his white robe a few days ago, replacing it with regulation clothes, after the media criticized the service for giving Meshulam preferential treatment.

In his petition Meshulam said that prison warders "jumped on him and cuffed and chained him while he was praying" and tore his prayer shawl. He also claimed that since the walking stick was confiscated he is unable to walk, and is confined to his bed at Ramle's Ayalon Prison Hospital.

"Even Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was not stripped of his clothing," the petition read. Meanwhile, scores of Meshulam's supporters have been rallying for the past few evenings outside the prison.

Director-general of Religious Affairs Ministry resigns

HERB KEINON

ZE'EV Rosenberg, director-general of the Religious Affairs Ministry, submitted his letter of resignation yesterday, less than a week after Shimon Shetreet took over the ministry.

In the letter, Rosenberg said he was quitting for personal reasons, and that it has nothing to do with Shetreet's appointment. Shetreet's spokesman Ofer Amar said the minister asked Rosenberg to stay on, but was turned down. Amar said Shetreet has no immediate candidate to replace Rosenberg.

Shas functionaries in the Religious Affairs Ministry have said that Shetreet is trying to clear the ministry of high level functionaries who are associated with Shas,

or the Shas administration of the ministry.

But Shas faction head Shlomo Benizri said he does not think that Shetreet is trying to "clean out" the ministry, rather just bring people on board whom he can work with. This, Benizri said, is "legitimate."

Benizri denied yesterday that Shas is considering rejoining the coalition because some Shas activists have been removed from key positions in the Interior and Religious Affairs ministries.

Both Interior Minister Uzi Baram and Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet, who entered their new positions last week, brought in their own personnel to run their offices.

Bezek workers plan to expand sanctions

JUDY SIEGEL

THE union of Bezek workers said yesterday that it would intensify sanctions "immediately," but would not disclose what that entails.

The announcement followed a Tel Aviv Labor Court hearing on management's request that Bezek technicians be held in contempt of court for refusing to halt their sanctions.

The court did not declare the workers in contempt.

Union spokesman Rahamim Laniado interpreted this as meaning they could expand the sanctions, which began last week. But Bezek spokesman Zecharya Mizrotsky maintained that the judge said he would hand down a decision "within two days," and had not rejected management's request.

Since last Wednesday, hundreds of Bezek technicians have refused to repair phones, except those belonging to hospitals or the security sector. Some 1,500 to 2,000 phone lines around the country break

down each day, and the requests for repairs are piling up.

The workers are protesting against the government's plans to publish a public tender in June and select two companies to provide international phone services in competition with a Bezek subsidiary. The union insists the tender be delayed by several years, so that Bezek and its subsidiary can prepare for the competition. If not, "thousands" of Bezek workers will be fired, the union claims.

Bezek director-general Yitzhak Kaul, speaking on Israel Radio yesterday, appealed to the workers to return to their jobs. "The struggle is not over canceling the public tender," he insisted, "but in fighting for customers in an open field of competition."

Kaul said Bezek had not advocated the government's breaking its monopoly in international services, but strongly opposed a strike, which would only harm the company.

Law Committee divided on regulating GSS wiretaps

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Law Committee has decided to hold off on a section of a bill regulating wiretapping by the General Security Service, after the government rejected MKs' demands to require judicial approval for such wiretaps.

Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) and former justice minister Dan Meridor (Likud) jointly presented the proposal to forbid GSS wiretaps without prior approval by a district court president. The government's bill, whereby only the consent of the defense minister would be required, violates a basic constitutional principle, they said.

"It is inappropriate that the minister responsible for the GSS be the one to determine the proper balance between security needs and the individual freedoms which are damaged by wiretapping," the two said in a joint statement. "Giving this authority... to a judge will not interfere with the GSS's activities."

However, GSS representatives insisted that such a requirement would interfere with their activities. Judges lack the necessary expertise in security matters to determine when a wiretap is really needed, they said.

Yitzhak Levy (NRP) support-

ed the GSS's stand.

Zucker, therefore, decided that only the other parts of the bill - dealing with police and army wiretaps and stiffer penalties for illegal wiretaps - will be finished and brought to the plenum. The sections dealing with GSS wiretaps, he said, will be held back to give Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Justice Minister David Liba'i time to reconsider their position in light of the MKs' stand.

Meanwhile, the committee sharply curtailed the army's freedom to wiretap, deciding that it would be allowed to eavesdrop for security purposes only on specific phone lines. The army had asked to be allowed to listen in on all conversations in a certain geographical region for limited periods of time, if special occurrences seemed to mandate it.

Zucker also said he would ask Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair for an opinion on whether another clause of the bill is in line with the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom. The clause in question would permit eavesdropping on conversations by doctors, lawyers, priests, and psychologists in certain very limited circumstances. Until now, wiretapping members of these professions has been categorically forbidden.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man charged with murder during robbery

Sami Boka'i, 30, of Kabul, was indicted yesterday for murder during the course of an armed robbery. According to the charge sheet, he and others robbed a jewelry store in the village, near Acre, last November 15. During the robbery, the shop owner, Samri Badameh of Araba, was shot three times and killed. The robbers then made off with NIS 40,000 in gold jewelry. *Itim*

More teenagers using condoms

Eighty-two percent of teenagers who have sex today use condoms, compared with only a third two years ago. The statistics, taken from a new marketing survey by Shvakim-Panorama, were made publicly available by the Ministry of Health. The poll of 542 youngsters aged 13 to 18 found that 17% have sexual experience. This is much more common among the boys (27%) than the girls (8%) and more frequent among the older boys (23% of those aged 16 to 18) than the younger ones (9% of those 13 to 15).

Among those who have sex, 94% claimed to use contraceptive methods of some kind.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, ace of hearts, nine of diamonds, and queen of clubs.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION
MIN. OF CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING
Jerusalem District

Lease offered on 6 plots for construction of 245 housing units in Shmshon, Ashkelon
Invitation to Tender 50/95/Yod Mem

The Ministry of Construction and Housing and the Israel Lands Administration invite bids from those interested in signing 22 month development agreements, and building and development contracts, after which the parties concerned will sign 49 year leases, for land, the details of which are given below.

Lot No.	Block Nos.	Parcel Nos.	Plot Nos.	Area of Plot (sq.m.)	Max. Building Area	Max No. of Units	Dev. Costs (NIS)	Deposit (NIS)
2	1965 1725 16, 17, 1930	47, 60, 111	1,3,4	5,484	4,480	26	172,000	250,000
3	1997 33,34, 1725	33,34, 14, 114, 15, 18, 19	1,2,3 4	7,029	5,510	37	590,000	400,000
8	1997	60	1	2,531	3,570	34	354,000	350,000
9	1997	43, 63, 101	1,2	6,862	8,190	78	1,078,000	800,000
11	1998	2, 3, 4, 5	1	3,558	5,460	52	504,000	500,000
12	1996	175	1	2,408	1,890	18	—	200,000

* The building rights are as specified in Urban Building Plan 131/bet mem/4. The plot areas have been calculated on paper and are not final. Changes may be made after the borders of the plots are marked on the ground. The detailed building rights shown in the above chart include both main and service areas.

** In addition to the amount paid for the land, the successful bidder will pay directly to the Israel Lands Administration, the above development costs within 20 days of the decision of the tender committee. It should be emphasized that the above payment is solely for works carried out by the Administration. Development costs will be linked to the building index for December 1994, updated to the last known index figure, on the day of payment.

VAT will not added to the above amount by the successful bidder, who will not receive an invoice by the Administration and will not be entitled to adjust this amount with the VAT authorities.

The following are eligible to bid:

- a. A company or person, registered in the Contractors Register under Building, Main Branch (100), in accordance with the Law for the Registering of Contractors for Civil Engineering Construction Work 1969.
- b. A company or person, not registered in the Contractors Register, who acts as an entrepreneur for the sale and leasing of buildings, constructed by contractors who are registered in the Contractors Register.

2. For lots 2, 3, 8, 12 - a contractor whose "calculated average number of housing units" is at least 50, and who is registered in the Contractors Register in Branch 100, Section 3 Gimmel, or an entrepreneur whose "calculated average number of housing units" is at least 50.

For lots 9, 11 - bids may be submitted also by a contractor whose "calculated average number of housing units" is at least 75, if he is registered under Branch 100, Section 4 Gimmel, or an entrepreneur whose "calculated average number of housing units" is at least 75.

The "calculated average number of housing units" will be calculated by reference to the total number of housing units and other construction areas, the building of which was completed after June 1, 1991.

3. A contractor/entrepreneur will provide confirmation of his construction work, completed after June 1, 1991, by providing, Inter alia:

- A building permit and Form 4, registered in the bidder's name.
- A building agreement, contracted between the bidder and another party, proving that the building work was carried out by him; a building permit and Form 4 in the name of the other party should be attached.
- A building agreement, contracted between the bidder and the Ministry of Construction and Housing. Every bidder may submit bids for one or more lots, but will not be awarded more than one lot.

The tender booklet will be available from March 9, 1995 on submission of a receipt from the Post Bank for NIS500 (cash only, including VAT) per booklet, for payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0. The booklet will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, at the Israel Lands Administration, 34 Rehov Ben Yehuda, Jerusalem (12th floor), ☎ 02-254121, during regular working hours.

A bank check or bank guarantee should be attached to the bids in the amount of the highest deposit of the lots bid for.

Last date for submitting bids: April 27, 1995 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

The Min. of Construction and Housing reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject all bids, including the highest.

A tour of the construction site will be held on April 10, 1995, leaving at 10 a.m. from the project center, Gaddish office, Rehov Blalik, Ashkelon (field office).

5 ONE-DAY TRIPS

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<p>Sunday March 12</p> <p>THEOLOGICAL SITES IN JERUSALEM</p> <p>Staking a claim in the city holy to Judaism, Christianity and Islam has been accepted practice for centuries. Led by experts, we'll visit a score of sites, explore the history, meet the residents and examine the connection between architecture, theology and the religious establishment.</p> <p>Tour guides: Yoram Zameret (Islamic Studies, Hebrew U.), Elmi Kaplan (Jewish Thought, Hebrew U.), Dr. Idan Yaron (Monastic Life, Academy of Sciences). Price: NIS 135</p>	<p>Monday March 27</p> <p>THE JORDANIAN BORDER OF PEACE</p> <p>Led by Ori Dvir, author of the best-selling Nekudot Chen, we'll see history in the making. We'll tour the border region now the center of cooperative efforts, the Sheikh Hussein Bridge - bombed in '46 and now rebuilt, Tirat Zvi, Kfar Ruppin, Gaon Hayarden, Kfar Hayarden, Habitanot, the observation post of Hamat Gader - meeting place of the borders of Israel, Jordan and Syria, the confluence of the Yarmuk and Jordan rivers and more, much more.</p> <p>Price: NIS 135</p>	<p>Wednesday April 5</p> <p>THE WINE ROUTE</p> <p>The ideal tour for the disciples of Bacchus. We'll study the history of wine, compare ancient and modern techniques and sample a few bottles along the way. Accompanied by a vintner, we'll start at Zichron Ya'akov, visit a country winery at Mizpeh Nafshim, see the wine presses on Mt. Meron and for lunch we'll partake of a sumptuous dairy meal at Ein Ramonim, famous for its goats and the ten cheeses they produce, country bread, fresh salad, yogurt and of course, wine.</p> <p>Tour Guide: David Eitam. Price: NIS 150</p>
<p>Sunday April 16</p> <p>THE NABATEANS</p> <p>They lived in the desert from the 4th century BCE, they fought the Hellenistic kings and the kings of the Hasmoneans. They ruled the desert, controlled the trade routes and built the cities of Petra, Avdat, Shivta and Mamshit, and in the end were defeated by the Romans. We'll learn about them, study their agriculture and traditions, visit Avdat, their largest city, rebuilt by the Romans and by the Byzantines, and Mamshit - the city of Kurnub.</p> <p>Tour Guide: Archaeologist Avner Goren. Price: NIS 145</p>	<p>Wednesday May 10</p> <p>IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JOSEPHUS FLAVIUS</p> <p>The battle at Yodfat was terrifying. The Jews didn't stand a chance. They chose to die rather than fall into Roman hands. All except one, their leader Yosef Ben Matityahu, now known as Josephus Flavius. Did he desert his people or did he find another way to serve them, as a historian? We'll visit Yodfat, scene of the battle, now a prosperous Galilee moshav, Zippori - the seat of the Sanhedrin in Talmudic times and home of Judah Hanasi, codifier of the Mishna, the city whose beautiful mosaics and impressive antiquities have been revealed by archeologists. We'll lunch at Kibbutz Hanaton.</p> <p>Tour Guide: Archaeologist Motri Aviam. Price: NIS 145</p>	

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סוכן מלאכה

Russians pound rebel Chechen village

SAMASHKY, Russia (AP) — A day after seizing a key stretch of road in southwest Chechnya, Russian forces kept up the pressure yesterday with rockets and artillery on the nearby rebel-held town of Achkhoy Martan.

Cars, buses and trucks full of refugees fled Achkhoy Martan and neighboring Samashky, around 35 kilometers west of Grozny. Residents also fled an attack on the southeastern village of Coch-Yurt.

After 12 weeks of war in the breakaway republic, the Russians control most of northern Chechnya. Over the weekend, they shelled and rocketed the southern villages of Chechen-Aul, Sary Atagy, Goiti and Shali.

A multiple GRAD rocket launcher unleashed a volley yesterday near a Russian military post about 2 kilometers west of Samashky. A low roll of explosions sounded a few seconds later to the southeast.

"They're bombing Achkhoy Martan," said a Russian colonel with Interior Ministry forces, who declined to be identified.

Four helicopter gunships floated lazily above the trees, providing air support for the Russian artillery and rocket batteries.

Across the front line in Samashky, Chechen fighters tried to calm a rowdy, impromptu meeting of women and elders, their nerves stretched by the bombardment. Fearing the Russians will turn their high explosives on them, some at the meeting urged flight.

"The FSK (Russian counterintelligence service) is at work here. It is they who are provoking the situation in Samashky," said the worried commander of Chechen forces in the village, 35-year-old Akhmed Islamov.

"They want to clear the village without a fight," he said, adding a little shakily: "We'll never surrender."

Tsutsitsa Sayduliyeva, a 42-year-old teacher from Samashky, was not taking any chances. She stood on the west road out of the village with a small crowd of other would-be refugees, waiting for a truck to take her and her six daughters and nieces out of the village. Plastic bags with their possessions lay at her feet.

"We've no money, and where the girls will go to school I don't know, but we have to leave," said Sayduliyeva.

A few weary-looking fighters lay in ditches under a hot sun, some wearing the green, silk headbands of "gazavat," or martyrdom.

Assault rifles and a few grenades were all they had to defend the village, cut off from the rest of rebel-held Chechnya when Russian forces took the main road between Samashky and Achkhoy Martan with new tank emplacements Sunday.



Demonstrators cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, to mark the 30th anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights march. From left, Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-Georgia), Southern Christian Leadership Council President Joseph Lowery, Evelyn Lowery, Coretta Scott King, Rep. Eva Clayton (D-N.C.), and Marie Foster. (AP)

US civil rights leaders mark 30th anniversary of Selma March

LED by four black members of Congress, about 2,000 marchers retraced a historic path across a bridge to mark the 30th anniversary of the "Bloody Sunday" voting rights march.

The marchers included Coretta Scott King, Martin Luther King III, the wife and son of the slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., and Rep. John Lewis, who was beaten bloody by troopers during the first march.

Earlier, two of the men who led the original march received keys to the city from the man who was Selma's mayor in 1965. A former segregationist, he now says he has changed his views.

The march on Selma was a pivotal event in the civil rights movement.

On March 7, 1965, white lawmen beat and gassed hundreds of marchers trying to cross Edmund Pettus Bridge. Footage of the beatings ran on national television, sparking outrage and leading to passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act, which outlawed literacy tests in many

PAUL NEWBERRY
SELMA, Alabama

Southern states.

Two weeks later, Martin Luther King Jr. led an even bigger march all the way to the steps of the state Capitol in Montgomery.

On Sunday, a cold rain fell on marchers gathered outside the National Voting Rights Institute to walk once again across the bridge named for a Confederate general. The group also planned to make the 86-kilometer journey to Montgomery for a rally on Saturday; about 100 of them will walk.

"It's gratifying to see all the changes that have occurred and to see the number of black registered voters and black elected officials in the state of Alabama," said Lewis, a Georgia Democrat.

Still, there was little sense that the battle has been won.

"Once again we're having to fight for our voting rights," said the Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian

Leadership Conference, blasting courts that have struck down majority black congressional districts.

Lowery, Lewis, Jesse Jackson and Rep. Cynthia McKinney joined in ceremonies at the Brown Chapel AME Church, where the first march also began. McKinney's district is one of those being challenged.

As the marchers passed through downtown, Lewis chatted with a couple of police escorts.

"Those young men who were here 30 years ago, they were acting on orders," Lewis said. "You didn't have any blacks on the state troopers in 1965. To see this integrated force here assisting in guarding us, that's gratifying."

Lewis and another leader of the original march, Hosea Williams, received keys to the city from Joe Smitherman, Selma's white segregationist mayor in 1965. He now says he was wrong and continues to hold the top government job in a city with a black majority. (AP)

China suffers blow in Hong Kong election

HONG KONG (AP) — China suffered a blow to its prestige Sunday when a vocal critic of Chinese Communism unseated a Beijing-backed ex-missionary in Hong Kong's penultimate election under British rule.

Szeto Wah's convincing win over Elsie Tu in municipal elections showed Hong Kong's Democrats are holding their ground against pro-China politicians as China's 1997 takeover approaches.

Szeto, 64, co-founded the Democratic Party, the largest pro-democracy faction, and he often criticizes China's human rights record, making him a "subversive" in Beijing's books.

Overall, Szeto's Democrats won 23 seats, a 64 percent success rate — up from 58 percent in district elections last September — to remain the most popular party.

Their main pro-China rival won eight seats.

Moscow crime officials lose jobs in fallout from journalist's murder

MOSCOW (AP) — Two top Moscow crime officials were fired yesterday in the wake of a prominent TV journalist's murder, apparent scapegoats for authorities' failure to halt the rising tide of organized crime.

The dismissals of Moscow chief prosecutor Gennady Ponomarev and police chief Gen. Vladimir Pankratov came four days after President Boris Yeltsin had urged their ouster, saddened by the killing of Vladimir Listyev and angered by "raging crime."

A statement issued by the Russian prosecutor-general's office said Ponomarev was being dismissed for "the failure to provide proper organization of the work to uncover and investigate grave crimes." Interior Minister Viktor Yerin issued a separate statement firing Pankratov.

Yeltsin, while conceding his own government also was at fault, berated Moscow officials for the capital's runaway crime as a simmering power struggle between federal and local leaders

emerged into view.

Mayor Yuri Luzhkov had defended the two city officials and claimed in a TV interview that Yeltsin spoke under "the influence of emotions." But the Kremlin has the ultimate say in hiring decisions involving the two posts.

The chairman of the security committee in the State Duma or lower house of parliament assailed Ponomarev's firing, calling him honest and decent and saying he was released for refusing to bow to the Kremlin's demands.

Boutros-Ghali calls for world war on poverty

COPENHAGEN (AP) — The UN secretary-general urged delegates of a huge poverty summit yesterday to develop a "social contract" to bring hope to people around the world.

Boutros Boutros-Ghali welcomed some 13,000 delegates and thousands of journalists attending this week's UN World Summit for Social Development, a conference to advance the fight against poverty, unemployment and social dislocation.

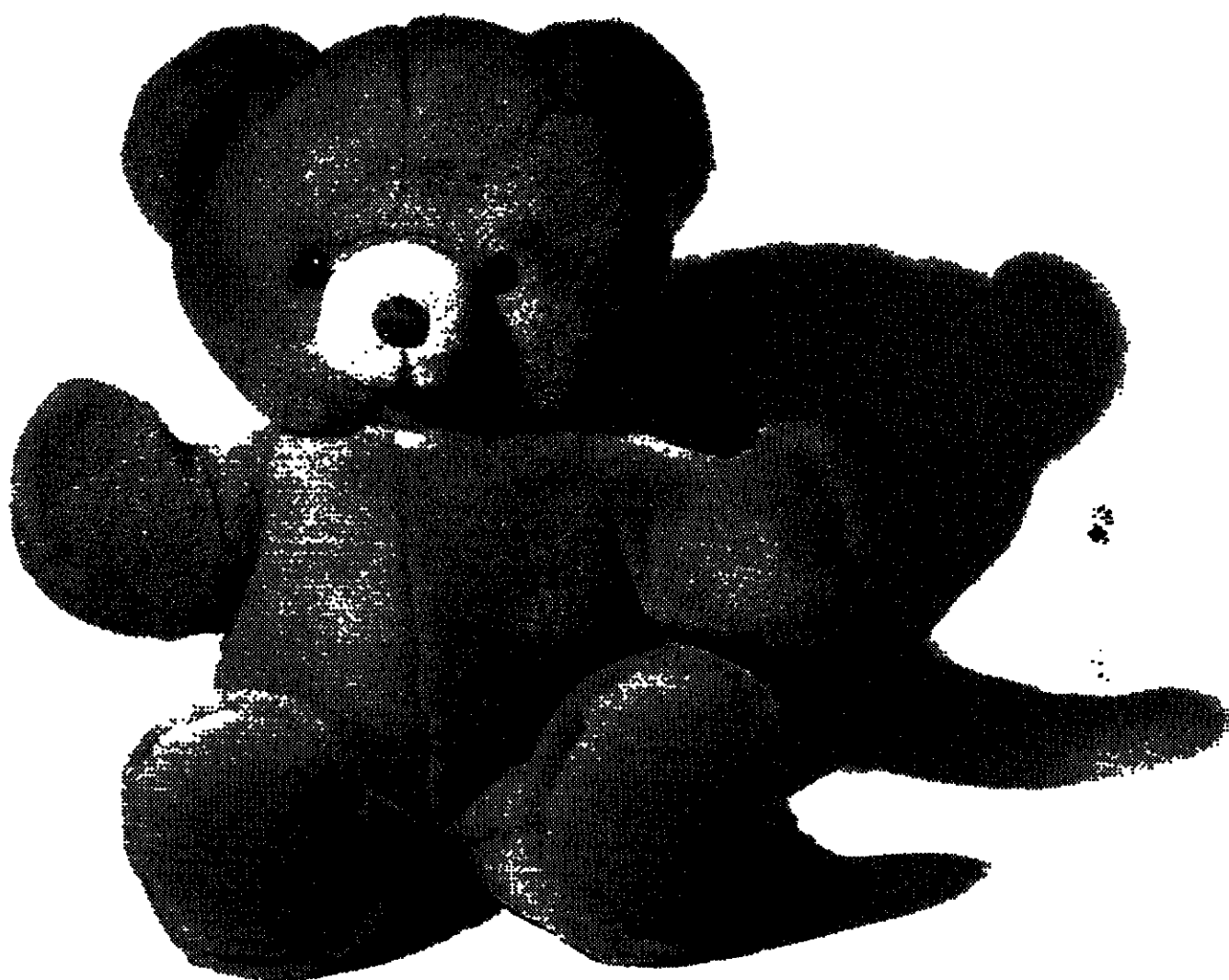
Three years in the planning, the summit has encountered withering criticism even before its

opening for mustering only vague, watered-down plans for tackling apocalyptic problems.

The United Nations hopes delegates will compare social programs, learn from each others' experiences and sign documents which groups can use to pressure their national leaders.

Boutros-Ghali said said 1.3 billion people — more than one in four worldwide — live in poverty and 1.5 billion do not have access to basic health care. He said that the gap between rich and poor has doubled since 1960, and more than two-thirds of the world's poor are women.

WHEN ASSAD WAS UP ON THE HEIGHTS, WE WERE DOWN IN THE SHELTERS.



Up to '67, the Syrians systematically shelled the settlements of the Hula and Jordan Valley and the Sea of Galilee. The old lion in Damascus enjoys playing with his prey. Ever since Israel has been on the Golan Heights and Damascus has been within range of our artillery - it's been quiet. Totally quiet on both sides of the border.

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Afghan gov't claims it is advancing on Shi'ite enclave

KABUL (Reuters) — Afghan government forces launched a dawn assault on an enclave held by Shi'ite Muslim militiamen in Kabul yesterday and said they had captured opposition front-line positions.

Fifteen foreign relief workers were trapped by the fighting in a Red Cross hospital, eyewitnesses and aid officials said.

Government jet fighters screamed across the capital, making more than a dozen bombing sorties against Shi'ite Hezb-i-Wahdat fighters in the southwestern Karte Seh district. They retaliated with a deafening barrage of anti-aircraft fire.

Guns loyal to President

Burhanuddin Rabbani poured rocket and artillery fire into the battered suburb from surrounding hills as the government began what a Defense Ministry spokesman said would be a fight to the finish.

Spokesman Dr. Abdullah said the government wanted to protect Kabul's civilian population from Wahdat rocketing.

But he told reporters the aim was not to destroy the Shi'ite militia.

He had earlier said the government forces expected to fight until Wahdat was defeated. "We have taken a decision to clean out Hezb-i-Wahdat and we are starting house-to-house fighting."

SA police to probe raid on home of Winnie Mandela

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — South Africa's police commissioner ordered an investigation into last week's police raid on the home of President Nelson Mandela's estranged wife, Winnie.

About 40 heavily armed police investigating fraud and corruption allegations raided her Soweto home last Wednesday while Mrs. Mandela, who is deputy arts and culture minister, was in West Africa.

Police searched the house for nine hours before leaving with documents which have been placed with the courts while a legal row goes on about whether the search was lawful.

"The purpose of the investigation will be to examine and report back on the manner and style of the search at Mrs. Mandela's home," a spokesman for police commissioner George Fivaz, Joseph Ngobeni, told Reuters yesterday.

Mandela has challenged the validity of the search warrant. Her application will be heard on March 14.

President Mandela has ordered Deputy President Thabo Mbeki to look into the charges.

French papers tell how 'Henri' played double agent to CIA's Mata Hari

PARIS (Reuters) — A high-flying French official at the heart of a Franco-American spy row became a double agent and fed information to his woman Central Intelligence Agency contact on behalf of French counter-espionage, newspapers said yesterday.

Le Figaro and *France-Soir* reported the official named as "Henri," a former junior adviser to Prime Minister Edouard Balladur on culture and sport, spoon-fed his contact after French authorities investigated his relationship with her. They told him she was a CIA agent and he was suspected of working for her. "Henri" convinced them of his innocence and accepted their offer that he feed her information.

The CIA agent was among five American citizens, including four diplomats, whom Paris asked Washington to recall last month in a spy tiff that strained relations between the two allies.

A SUMPTUOUS FEAST!

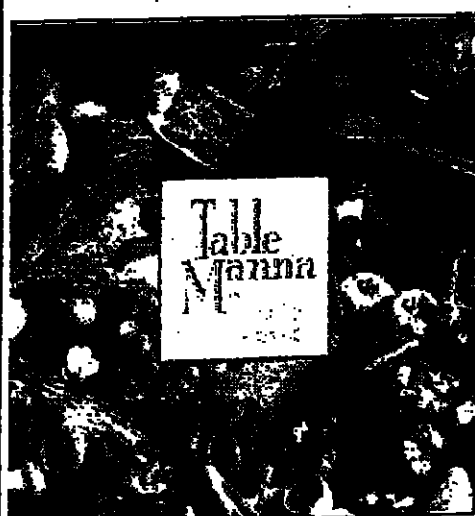


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Peres's latter-day wisdom

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres can be exasperating. After repeatedly and vehemently insisting that the one and only Palestinian leader with whom Israel can and should negotiate is PLO chief Yasser Arafat, he tells the German magazine *Der Spiegel* that Arafat may not be the right person after all. "If he is too weak to impose his authority... why should Israel negotiate with him?" he said.

One can only wonder if Peres, with all the intelligence information available to him, could not have foreseen that Arafat would neither renounce the "armed struggle" nor launch a civil war against the 30 percent to 50 percent of the Palestinian population which is opposed to the Oslo agreement.

And one wonders, too, if he still believes that the massive injection of grants, loans, investments, and aid into the region, which would change it the way the Marshall Plan transformed Western Europe after World War II, is a realistic prospect. His whole vision of the "New Middle East" is, after all, dependent on this kind of economic miracle, and the readiness of the region to participate in it.

Peres's remarks at Sunday's cabinet meeting only add to the confusion. Vowing that Israel

would never lose its deterrent capability by signing the Non-Proliferation Treaty, he said: "Nuclear weapons, now more prevalent, can get into irresponsible hands. The question is what to inspect: the weapons or those who possess them. Irresponsible countries, including those without nuclear weapons, constitute danger; and the day is not distant in which the world will cope with the problem by monitoring the regimes' character. Democratic countries do not get involved in war and aggression, and therefore the answer to nuclear weapons is democratization. As long as there are tyrants, it is very difficult to sleep peacefully."

Truer words have never been spoken. Armed tyrants, whether equipped with nuclear or conventional weapons, are dangerous by definition. The very nature of dictatorial rule makes it impossible to reach real, lasting peace with a tyrant. Nor must these intrinsically dangerous regimes ever be granted a strategic advantage over a neighboring democracy.

Again, one can only wonder if Peres has suddenly seen the light, or if he still believes that Israelis will sleep more peacefully once Hafez Assad, one of the world's most ruthless tyrants, regains control of the Golan Heights.

The polygraph bunkum

THE only thing that can be said for the Defense Ministry's polygraph (lie detector) tests is that the CIA and other august agencies administer them with the same stubborn inanity. That the test is routinely applied to all officials in sensitive positions, from the chief of general staff on down, has become known only because Elyakim Rubinstein, the ministry's new legal adviser, has refused to take it. Asserting that the test violates his rights under Article 2 of Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom, he would rather forego his job than be subjected to this humiliation.

Rubinstein's indignation is understandable, but the polygraph should not be abolished for offending sensibilities. Israel is still in a state of war, and security considerations must often take precedence over the civil rights of government officials. The reason such tests should not be used is much simpler - they don't work.

Nor is there any excuse for ignorance on this subject. *New York Times* columnist William Safire, a crusader on the subject, pointed out soon after Russian mole Aldrich Ames was apprehended last year that this much-touted machine had again failed miserably. Arguably a spy who has done the US more damage than any other, Ames passed the test with flying colors in 1986, and again in 1991. "Washington's reliance on this device, which often accuses ner-

vous truth-tellers and clears cool liars," wrote Safire at the time, "may have led to the execution of 10 or more of our agents in Moscow."

The polygraph, as Safire put it, "is a splendid tool to scare suspects into confessions, but could be easily fooled by a natural liar, a psychopath or a trained spy." That the CIA was lulled into a false sense of security by this device not only in Ames's case but undoubtedly in many others is nothing short of a national American tragedy.

Unfortunately, the temptation to use this relatively inexpensive device has proved irresistible to bureaucracies both in Israel and the US. Instead of undertaking more arduous, old-fashioned procedures, such as checking the background, associates, bank accounts, living habits, and tax returns of officials in highly sensitive positions, government agencies prefer to administer a test which Dr. John Furedy, University of Toronto polygraph expert, has called "astrology," "magic," and "wishful thinking."

Israel has had its share of moles, spies, and double agents who have done the country immeasurable harm. To let pseudo-scientists ("sweat merchants," as Safire calls them) spend public funds on administering useless tests to the chief of general staff and the Defense Ministry's legal adviser is to mock the country's true security concerns.



The reckless gamblers

ONE joke these days is that we're really living in Italy - except everybody speaks Hebrew. Why? Because, like Italy, we have no functioning government and yet life goes on.

But for Menahem Begin, whose daughter Ofra was murdered by Arab terrorists in January, life can't go on as usual. Rabbi Felix, a firm believer in nonviolence, began a hunger strike three weeks ago to protest a government policy that will bring more death and suffering to Jews and Arabs. Since Ofra's murder, 24 more young Jewish lives have been snuffed out by the growing Arab terror that has become the trademark of the peace process.

The architects of the Oslo agreement claim that terror was one of the calculated risks the government took into account.

Yet by definition, when a calculated risk goes wrong, the damage can be repaired at not too high a price. With a reckless gamble, by contrast, the price of damage control is prohibitive.

Like all reckless gamblers on a losing streak, this government continuously doubles its bets in an effort to recoup losses - and continues to lose.

Nations cannot afford to gamble. A government that does so isn't just irresponsible; it is guilty of gross negligence.

In the last 100 years, there have been no wars between countries with democratic governments. Wars have been waged only where at least one side had a totalitarian government. In every case, the totalitarian regime was the aggressor.

There is no democracy anywhere in this region except Israel. The rational thing for Israel to do would thus be to demand that Arab countries wishing to sign peace treaties first demonstrate at least a minimal democratic

YEDIDYA ATLAS

framework. Otherwise, how binding can any peace agreement be, should a current Arab dictatorship be overthrown?

This is all the more risky when Israel volunteers to give up large strategically critical areas and primary water sources in return for a piece of paper bearing the signature of a dictator whose own commitment to peace is questionable.

THE PROBLEM isn't only one of Arab sincerity and stability.

The government has used its bare technical majority in the Knesset officially to renounce Is-

They double their bets - and continue to lose

rael's claim as a nation to its historical birthright, to declare the Jewish-Zionist enterprise dead. This is something no Israeli government has a moral right to do.

When concerned citizens suggest that such major policy decisions should require a special Knesset majority, the prime minister denounces them, and he isn't careful about his language. Yet countries like Australia, France, Germany, the US, Sweden - even Norway, where the Oslo agreement was signed - have such parliamentary principles.

Ignoring the Yom Kippur debacle, some ministers claim that Israel can afford any territorial concessions necessary to get a peace agreement signed because "we have the IDF, which is the strongest and best army there is, capable of anything we need to

have done."

The IDF hasn't fought a major war in over a decade. So how do these ministers know?

Israel's number one enemy is said to be the "Islamic extremists." This ignores Syria, Iran, Iraq and Egypt, all of which are building up their conventional and unconventional capabilities at an alarming pace.

Egypt, with which Israel signed a peace treaty, is investing perhaps more than any other country in the region in unconventional weaponry. Moreover, the Egyptian army's Order of Battle names Israel as Egypt's primary enemy. What then can be expected from Syria, Iran and Iraq?

The IDF would probably not be able to retake the Golan if Syria violated a peace treaty. Even if it could, the losses incurred would be staggering.

There has been a change in the balance of power between Israel and Syria. Even if Israel still maintains an (as yet unproven) qualitative edge, Syria has already achieved a substantive quantitative one.

This is the Rabin government's reckless gamble. And accepting Arafat's Palestinian Authority can't even be called that.

The IDF military judge advocate's office issued a report (December 13) on dozens of major PLO violations of the Oslo agreement which had been suppressed by the government, lest Israelis realize its full culpability in this tragic farce called the peace process.

Perhaps Menahem Begin's vigil will prove a rallying point for those who don't believe in reckless gambles, especially when it is their children's future that is at stake.

The writer is a Jerusalem-based freelance journalist.

A daring leader of vision

EYAD EL-SARRAJ

ISRAELIS are not confident that the peace process will bring them security. "Where is peace?" every Israeli must ask himself when human bombs explode in the heart of Israel and his fellow citizens are slaughtered.

Nor are Palestinians confident that this peace will liberate them. "How can this be peace?" they ask after every move to expand a settlement, after every closure.

It looks as if the two enemies who have victimized each other for generations are doomed to continue doing so. The gap is still wide.

What is needed is a leader like Nelson Mandela: imaginative, forgiving, daring and dignified, able to control events and show his people the way forward. Such leaders can promote the spirit of peace far beyond their own borders, uniting their peoples and winning the hearts and minds of their enemies.

In every Palestinian there is a split that runs deep in the psyche. On one level, he or she longs for peace; on another, there is sympathy with the violent resistance offered by the Islamists.

Palestinians identify with the ideals of peace, but not with a peace seemingly devoid of justice. They dream of redemption and an end to violence and hatred, but need to have their grievances acknowledged.

They have patiently supported the peace process, but can no longer deny their disillusionment

with it. They are made to witness the humiliation of their leaders, now captive in the wider prison of an unresolved occupation.

The Israelis are divided also. They carry the fear of losing control, of becoming victims again. Their fear of the past overwhelms their hope for the future. Yet they yearn to live in peace after decades of wars and violence.

THE ARAB who really understood the Israeli psyche best, who

What the peace process needs is an 'Israeli Sadat'

acted with vision and courage, was Anwar Sadat. In his dignified and dramatic speech at the Knesset, he shocked Israelis by renouncing violence.

Sadat won Israelis' hearts because he made them feel safe by declaring "No more war." He got Begin's government to make peace with Egypt.

Today, Israelis and Palestinians sit face to face, but their eyes are on the opinion polls and the next elections. They shake hands and share prizes, but their hearts are cold and tired. Both parties are losing confidence in the peace process and in themselves.

The process, devoid of wisdom, has overwhelmed its makers. Two peoples contemplating lasting peace after generations of hatred require visionary leaders of the caliber of Mandela and Sadat.

Now that it is too late for a Palestinian Mandela to emerge, what the Palestinians need is an Israeli Sadat, a leader who can unite them behind his call for peace.

They need an Israeli leader offering vision and honesty, not half-hearted promises and crude force, to help them resolve the split within themselves; a leader who will relinquish domination for the sake of mutual trust and respect based on equality.

This "Israeli Sadat" would help them see peace as the only real option, securing their dignity and defining their future.

He would have the courage to tell his own people that freedom can be gained only if the enslavement of another people is abandoned. He would know that Israel's security can only be ensured by a neighbor in full possession of his dignity, and not by force of arms, be it a rifle or an atomic bomb.

A peace of this kind is one Palestinians could defend, even against enemies on their own side.

The writer, a psychiatrist, is a member of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights.

Tricks of the trade

IRA BRAVERMAN

YEARS ago, the building trade unions in the US did the American public a big favor, by doing three things.

First, they forced the construction contractors who wanted labor peace to guarantee high wages for their workers.

Second, they used political muscle to force Congress to pass the Davis-Bacon Act, requiring all contractors working on projects receiving federal funding to pay their workers the high "union" wage.

Third, the trade unions guaranteed that they would always be able to supply trained craftsmen to meet the needs of the building industry. To accomplish this, the trade unions instituted the apprenticeship system.

A young man or woman enters his chosen trade - plastering, electrical work, roofing etc. - as part of a five-year program. The program consists of study in the union-operated trade schools and work on the construction sites under the supervision and tutelage of an experienced journeyman. The education comes with a promise that the training of the workmen will produce a man with sufficient skills to provide a high level of efficiency, productivity and quality.

This allows the contractors to pay high wages, operate in the atmosphere of strict government enforcement of building codes and quality standards and, at the same time, allow the contractors a decent profit.

The result of this innovation is that in the US, being a construction worker is a respectable, if not sought-after, profession.

Construction time is the fastest in the world, as contractors understand that time is real money. The public is generally assured of work that conforms to a high standard.

The biggest payoff is that the cost of construction is at least 20 percent cheaper than in Israel.

ON THE DESK of Labor Minister Ora Namir sits an offer from the American building trade unions to share their apprenticeship training programs with Israel.

The offer would entail taking senior teachers from our building trade schools to the US, where they would learn how to teach the American apprenticeship programs in Israeli schools. In addition, the US trade unions would send experienced supervisors to integrate their programs into Israel's construction trade schools.

The boom to our construction industry would be remarkable. The most modern building techniques, based on efficiency and high productivity, would be introduced into our building industry.

Workers who possessed these skills would be in high demand by contractors, who would be only too happy to replace their poorly skilled workers with highly trained ones. These workers would command higher wages, encouraging more people to enter the building trades.

The government could accelerate the process by passing a law similar to the Davis-Bacon Act to be applied to government-funded projects, raising the wages of construction workers. Young discharged soldiers would find this an ideal way to start a career that is respectable and offers a chance to earn a decent living.

The current alternative offered the public, since Arab workers - who were poorly trained to begin with - have been closed out, is to import Romanian, Chinese and other foreign workers. These hail from countries where slow, low-quality work is standard.

If the public has had enough of the defective building that seems to be the norm in this country, it should know that there is a solution. It is the plan sitting somewhere in a Ministry of Labor office. All we have to do is demand it.

The writer is a consulting construction engineer with offices in Los Angeles and Jerusalem.

CORRECTION: In "Ecological (non)sense" by Leonard M. Shor (March 5), the million tons of carbon dioxide produced yearly worldwide is from human breathing alone, and not as stated.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AIDS IN ISRAEL

Sir, - I am writing in response to the article concerning AIDS of January 23, reprinted from *Newsday*. I do not doubt the accuracy of Gabriel Rotello's assertion that the "de-gay-ing" of AIDS in the US has shifted emphasis away from the homosexual community in which the disease is still most prevalent. The author presents a strong argument for legitimate concern.

But while it may be true that the emphasis on AIDS prevention has effectively shifted away from the homosexual community in major American cities, this is not the case in Israel.

In this country AIDS continues to be viewed as a "gay" disease with rare cases among heterosexuals. This is a gross misconception. In Israel 1,235 people are reported as being HIV positive according to the Ministry of Health. Of these, 39.9 percent are heterosexual - a figure that presents a drastic rise in this sector of our society over the past four years.

While AIDS is, as yet, an incurable disease, it is preventable. Today, AIDS is transmitted almost exclusively through unprotected sexual practice or through the sharing of intravenous needles. In both cases responsible behavior can protect a person, gay or straight, from becoming infected.

The Association for AIDS Prevention in Israel operates on the premise that a new set of social norms among sexually active Israelis is called for in light of the AIDS epidemic. The association therefore sends educators to high schools,

army bases and prisons around the country to deliver information on HIV/AIDS, the nature of the virus and how it is transmitted, and to conduct frank discussions about safe sex.

One of the foremost misconceptions lecturers continually have to overcome is "that AIDS is a gay disease that does not threaten heterosexuals." Consequently, many heterosexuals feel immune to AIDS and do not consider it necessary to practice safe sex. The eradication of this erroneous belief is of great importance to all those who are trying to prevent AIDS in Israel from becoming the widespread epidemic it is in the rest of the world.

Although Israel may lie a decade behind North America and Western Europe in the number of people who have contracted HIV/AIDS, this country is also equally behind in awareness concerning the disease. In New York, where AIDS awareness is high, Mr. Rotello's article may be appropriate. It suggests a step back to a readership that has recently taken two steps forward. However, here in Israel, where we have yet to complete our first step towards AIDS awareness and prevention, your decision to print such an article without any sort of balancing opinion and may have damaged the cause of AIDS prevention among Israelis.

ARI BROWN,
Director of Public Relations,
The Association for AIDS
Prevention in Israel
Jerusalem.

WESLEY COLLEGE

Sir, - President Chaim Herzog and his late brother were pupils of Wesley College, Dublin, in the early 1930s. This year the college will celebrate 150 years since its founding with a variety of activities taking place the weekend of September 19-October 1.

There are many Wesley past pupils in Israel - too numerous to contact individually - to whom an invitation is extended to come to

Dublin for the celebrations, to buy for themselves and/or friends a special anniversary tie or scarf, a copy of the specially written updated history of the college, or simply make contact with Wesley. This may be done by writing to The Secretary, Wesley College, Ballinteer, Dublin 16, Ireland. We'd love to hear their news.
JOAN FINKEL
Dublin.

AGENCY ELECTIONS

Sir, - Allow me to add two points to Susan Hattis Rotello's excellent article "Vote and veto" (February 20) on the undemocratic interference of the Jewish Agency's Advice and Consent Commission with the election of the chairman of the agency and the Zionist Organization.

Not enough stress has been laid on the absurdity of allowing 10 Diaspora representatives to predetermine a choice that has to be made formally by the entire Board of Governors, which has 96 members divided equally between representatives of the World Zionist Organization and the agency. Why not let the board decide unhindered?

Ms. Rotello's alternative, to enable all Jewish citizens of Israel and all committed Diaspora Jews to take part in the process, is impracticable. It has been hard enough to organize democratic elections to the Zionist congresses, and Israelis will hardly turn out for yet another round of elections.

All that is required is to abolish the superfluous and undemocratic Advice and Consent Commission and leave the Board of Governors, on which the Diaspora is fully represented, free to decide.

MISHA LOUVISH
Jerusalem.

WRONG IMPRESSION

Sir, - I am a reader of *The Jerusalem Post* for 62 years and, together with you experienced good days and bad days as far as its contents are concerned, even if I did not always agree with your various articles. However, the picture of February 20 showing a naked mother with her child in a Masorti mikve is disgusting and lowers the standards befitting a paper like *The Jerusalem Post*.

HERMANN JOSEPH MAYER
Jerusalem.

Mr. Mayer is mistaken. The mother in the picture was obviously wearing a bathing suit. - E.D.P.

Vinyl alliance turns the tables on CDs

DAVID BAUDER
NEW YORK

ON its new album, the American rock band Pearl Jam urges its fans to "spin the black circle." It may sound like a satanic ritual, but singer Eddie Vedder is actually celebrating something most parents of Pearl Jam fans can relate to. Remember records?

Vinyl records, which all but disappeared in the lightning-fast transition to compact discs in the late 1980s, are suddenly hip again.

Records never truly went away, particularly in the rap and dance-music communities where turntables are a tool of a disc jockey's art. But a resurgence in vinyl has been led by alternative rockers, whose very name betrays a desire for something different.

Vedder sings lovingly, on the song "Spin the Black Circle," of the simple act of pulling a record from its sleeve. The rock band Veruca Salt also celebrates records with the song "Victrola" on its debut album.

Pearl Jam made vinyl copies of its new album available in November two weeks before the compact disc went on sale. Approximately 65,000 of the 2.7 million copies of *Vitalogy* sold so far were on record, according to Soundscan.

"We want all of our records to be available on vinyl," Pearl Jam

bass player Jeff Ament recently told *Billboard*. "Years ago, when the record companies decided that they were going to go with the CD format and phase out vinyl, there were a lot of people that listened to records that were unfairly taken out of the loop. I was one of those people."

The gimmick of releasing albums on vinyl before compact disc, which predates Pearl Jam, now threatens to become a full-blown trend: New albums by Siouxsie and the Banshees, and the band Cake, will be among the vinyl-first new releases this year.

according to Ken Barnes, managing editor of *Ice*, an industry newsletter.

Record companies shipped out 900,000 copies of vinyl albums during the first six months of 1994, compared to 500,000 for the same period a year earlier, according to the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).

Vinyl junkies say the often intricate album artwork that was an

important part of the record-buying experience lost its impact on a tiny CD case. Some record-store owners prefer displaying albums.

Many turntable owners also insist the sound quality of records is better than CDs.

"If you turn up a CD, it just keeps getting louder and louder and higher-pitched," said Marty Jones, co-owner of Groove Shack Records in Columbus, Ohio. "With a record, the sound just keeps getting fuller."

Jones heads a 100-member group, called the Vinyl Alliance, that pressures record companies

to make new releases available on record as well as compact disc and tape.

Despite these efforts, the vast majority of new album releases each year are not put out on vinyl.

Jay Berman, chairman of the RIAA, called records a "nostalgic cottage industry." He cautioned vinyl enthusiasts against hoping that records ever amount to more than that again.

Yet even Berman conceded that something was lost in the changeover to CDs. He said the future holds the promise of com-

part discs that can be packed with an enormous amount of information that may make up for what's missing in the CD booklet.

"There is a sense among certain people out there that the vinyl album represented the epitome of what the recording industry was all about - a touchy-feely, big thing - very personal," he said.

One record company official, Warner Bros. product manager Geoffrey Weiss, said that some of his fellow executives wished that records would simply go away.

Manufacturing albums isn't necessarily a big expense, Weiss said. But most companies aren't interested in doing this on a large scale because there is no profit potential: Compact discs may sell millions of copies but there will never be a million-selling record again.

Rock diva Annie Lennox tries going under cover

NEW RELEASES
TIRZAH AGASSI

IT'S hard not to love Annie Lennox. Her gaze, like her voice, is direct and full of depth. Intelligent but not elitist, she reaches out to the masses with art that is high quality and even educational. And she is married to an Israeli who used to hang out on Tel Aviv's Sheinkin Street.

The Aberdeen-born Mrs. Uri Fruchtmann, a former Eurythmic, has just released her second solo album. The first, 1992's *Diva* (Hed Arzi), sold over 5 million copies. And now *Medusa* (Hed Arzi) - an ambiguous title which popped up in Lennox's head - seems destined for multi-platinum status.

There is much that is excellent about this offering. Thus one feels almost ungrateful to find it unsatisfying. The problem is not with Lennox's unbeatable vocals or even with her choice of material. For she has taken on an interesting set of covers of songs, most of them already well known in original versions sung by male vocalists.

At least half of the 10 will probably become hit singles and even be remembered as her own.

What holds Lennox back from fulfilling her potential is the arrangement and production of her

material. This is done by a commercial team which often seems to take its cue from paint by numbers. One can almost hear them pressing buttons that read "R & B" or "Olde English Chorus."

The result is that Lennox's 24-carat vocal gems are set in a somewhat klutzy, rhinestone tiara. Not all the arrangements are that pedestrian, but enough to keep this reviewer from wanting to let the album under her skin. If only Annie would find a backing team as original and spirited as Sheryl Crow's Tuesday Night Music Club!

That's the bad news. The good news is that anyone who turns on the radio in the next year, or even two, will hear a string of finely chosen and beautifully delivered hits.

The first single, the quirkily intelligent "No More I Love You's" is not the best. This reviewer's favorites are Procul Harum's "A Whiter Shade of Pale" and Paul Simon's "Something So Right." Lennox definitely does these two unforgettable songs justice.

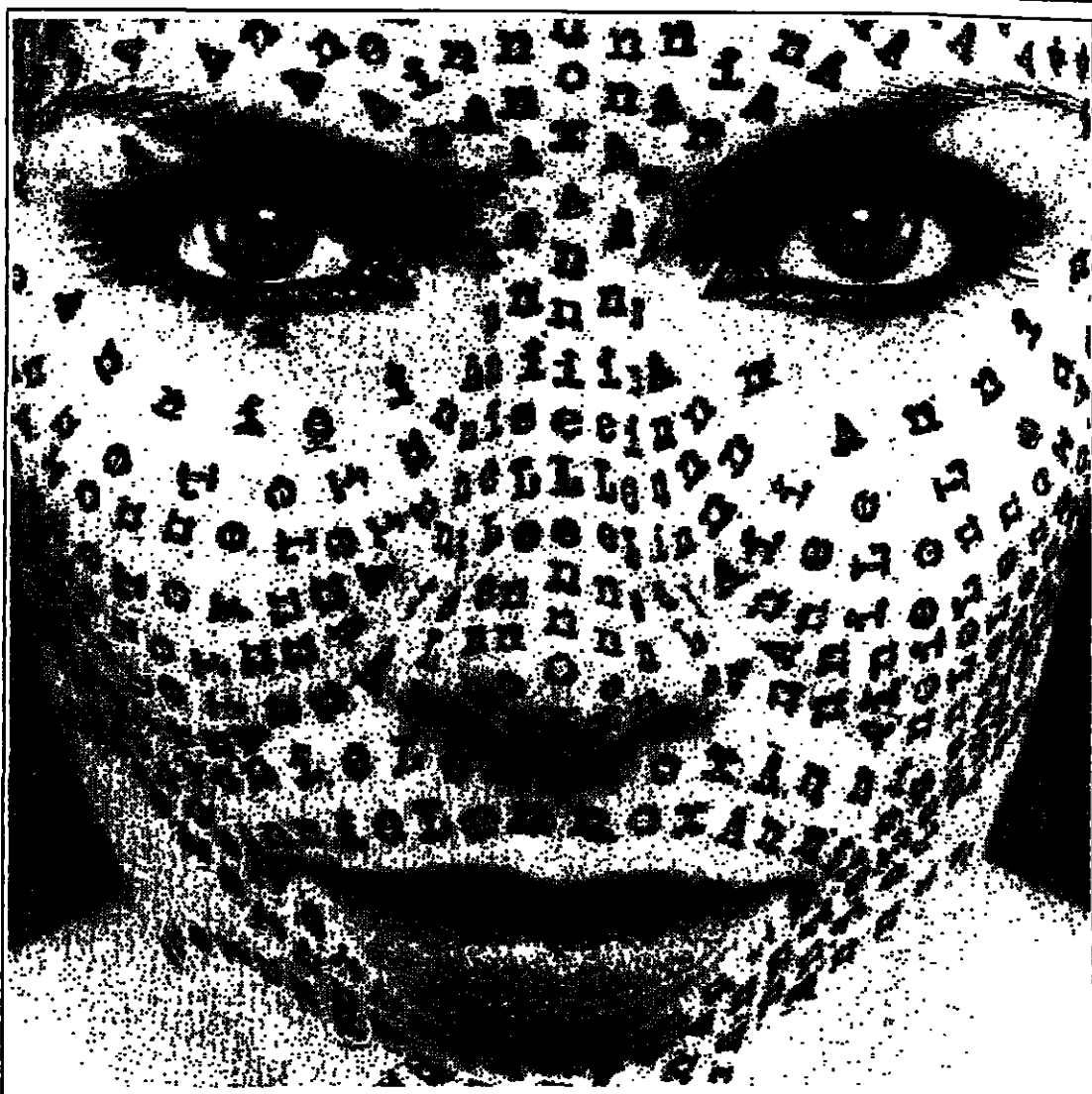
She also gets uninhibitedly black on "Take Me To The River" and "Train In Vain." In fact her spirit is so infectious that even the production manages to keep up.

Neil Young's "Don't Let It Bring You Down" is moving and the cautionary tale "Thin Line Between Love And Hate" is an interesting warning to any man who thinks he's got the little woman house-broken.

However, the version of the Temptations' "I Can't Get Next To You" or a de-reggae cover of Marley's "Waiting In Vain" are likely to be the next singles. The Blue Nile's 6.42 minute "Down Town Lights" is the only song that doesn't seem instantly radio-friendly.

Anyone who loves Lennox would do well to check the album out in a store and decide for themselves whether they agree with this reviewer's reluctant disappointment or the kudos of another critic who found the arrangements to be "diverse, majestic, powerful and reverent."

Come what may, Lennox is to be thanked for providing radio listeners with a crop of singles that will certainly live up to the coming season.



On 'Medusa,' Lennox's vocal gems are placed in less-than-brilliant settings by her production and arrangement teams. The recording will probably go multi-platinum anyway. (Betina Rheims)

'Shades' gets ready to shine

HELEN KAYE

THEY'RE "Off the Wall," and proud of it.

That's the title artistic director Allida Gera has given to one of the five groups of dances by young choreographers in the *Shades of Dance '95* (Gvanim Bemachol) competition at the Tel Aviv Suzanne Dallah Center from April 7 to 10.

"We didn't deliberately look for themes. The dances just seemed to group themselves naturally," said Gera of the 21 dances which will compete for NIS 15,000 in prizes.

These include *Auntie Leah* in "World Tones" by Barak Marshall, a choreographer who, according to Gera, "may very well develop a new local dance language."

She also singled out new immigrant dancer/choreographer Erika Chimenbroskaya, a late entrant whose work "we had to include when we saw the video."

Her dance is *Eva* in the group Gera called "Very Now" and is based on Adam and Eve.

The other groups are "Classically Toned" and "Very Personal," which explores women in their own world and includes *Down Town Nefesh* by Ornit Rosenblum, a Rena Schenfeld dancer.

The average age is around 21/22, Gera says, and most of the presenting choreographers at this seventh *Shades* are new faces.

This year's budget rose to NIS 400,000 from NIS 285,000 last year, the result of making the contest a biennial instead of an annual event, Vardi says.

"It's also enabled us to devote far more time to bringing along each production," he adds.

Each of the dances will be performed twice.

There are freebies outside, including tap, street and Spanish dancing.

Facing the past: From public plight to Seder plate

THEATER REVIEW
NAOMI DOUDAI

POLLARD (The Patriots)
By Motti Lerner. Direction, Itai Ronen. Set, Dror Herenson. Music, Ori Vidislavski. Costumes, Anat Messner. Lighting, Niv Sadeh. At The Coter Theater, Tel Aviv. Cast: Shaul Rand, Orna Katz, Yossi Graber, Eli Dankner, Yossi Kautz.

With this show raising the banner on behalf of Jonathan Pollard, the Cameri may seem to be making a public gesture.

If the object is to draw attention to his plight, it succeeds. Yet noble pretensions notwithstanding, this lavish effort to elevate spy stuff to heroic heights leaves one ambivalent. When the curtain comes down a sense of insincerity, a sour, lingering suspicion of sensationalism persists. With the sanctimonious plea that follows from the stage for signatures

to a petition, the reek of exploitation of a popular media issue is confirmed.

"A fictional play inspired by the Pollard Affair" says the sub-title. Historical veracity thereby denied? Supported by a mix of fact and half-truths it is at any rate not bona-fide documentary. Nor is it a play in the accepted sense. An animated but weakly structured dramatization, it depends on techniques that juggle chaotic time shifts, frontal narration, audience asides, sliding screens, video clips, telephone talk and cine-style music sound-track, with multiple scene changes.

The resulting fragmentation of this TV-type treatment confuses. Even if it sustains tension it soon wears out audience attention and credulity. Neither eye nor mind can cope with so much agitation

nor with such a plethora of themes. The pile-up of betrayal, sacrifice, patriotism, cupidity, idealism, disillusion, spy stuff, etc. etc. becomes less titillating than tiresome.

Despite these flaws in the writing, Shuli Rand, Orna Katz, Yossi Graber, Eli Dankner and Yossi Kautz render their roles with strong conviction and an uncanny empathy with their living counterparts.

HAMETZ
Written and directed by Shmuel Hasfari. Music, Arkadi Duchin. Set, Dror Herenson. Costumes, Michal Laor. Lighting, Ben Zion Munitz. Beit Liessin Theater at Eretz Yisrael Museum, Ramat Aviv. Cast: Yigal Naor, Miriam Zohar, Dov Navon, Nava Ziv, Dora Keidar and others.

Just as we begin to despair of local theater in general and the Hebrew play in particular, along comes a production whose equal for dramatic power, superb acting and directing, has not been seen in years. With this, 12th work, a much-matured Shmuel Hasfari achieves a synthesis of intellectual, directorial and dramatic impulse that makes him one of our most outstanding theater personalities to date.

Set on the eve of the Yom Kippur War, *Hametz* is a savage, almost demonic allegory of latter-

day Zionism and the sickness of the soul that taints its present-day protagonists. The action consists of a ritual family seder ruined by the intrusion of dark demons in the past of its participants. Yiddish hysteria, the Holocaust, the Masada myth and Hagana heroics all explode inside this family celebration.

As a ritual Last Supper it mourns the destruction of Zionism but also pleads for the future of our children. Let them, it implores, live without the demons of the past.

The play is not without technical flaws. Yet it is compelling, as a piece of burning prophecy rather than a cynical exercise in exorcism. This detritus of the dead that is always with us, it warns, carries the seeds of self-destruction.

The macabre and grotesque is, however, finely balanced with deeper portents plus a constant flow of contrasting comedy.

Lia Dulitzkaya's delightfully dotty grandmother, and Dvora Keidar's hilarious Bracha from Bnei Brak, echo the best in Yiddish theater.

Stuttgart's best foot forward

DANCE REVIEW
DORA SOWDEN

THE Stuttgart Ballet was at its best at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center on March 2.

Uwe Scholz's *Seventh Symphony*, the climax of the performance, had the patrician elegance of the powerful Beethoven music. Especially delightful was Scholz's use of dance gestures to suggest a phrase of the music.

After Roberto de Oliveira's harrowing *Last Train* (with music by Steve Reich) depicted a railway station and a group of waiting passengers, the brightness of the Scholz creation was a relief.

Not since Magny Magin's May-be, staged for an Israeli Festival, Jerusalem, has there been anything so shattering moving.

The backdrop to the first work on the program was so realistic that the stage and lighting designers (Jordi Ruig, Felipe Alcocoba and Dieter Billino) almost dwarfed the 11 spirited dancers who appeared at the foot of a lofty mountain. As couples peeled off to dance duets, the rest of the dancers evoked a strange magic with a slow, lapping movement.

To mark the 100th birthday of its founder, the Thelma Yellin School of Arts gave a "Winter Festival" at the Suzanne Dallah Theater (Feb. 27). It testified to the energetic work and accomplishment of gifted teachers and students.

Barenboim keeps Beethoven's secret

CONCERT ROUNDUP

A piano recital by Daniel Barenboim has, regrettably, become a rare event, so this one was especially appreciated.

He played three Beethoven sonatas: an early one - No. 7, in D, Op. 10, No. 3; the highly popular one of his middle period - No. 21, in C, Op. 53 (the Waldstein); and, finally, No. 32 in C minor, Op. 111, which leads us into the abstract world of sound.

Barenboim is no longer the perfect technician, but he is all the more the perfect musician. His profound interpretations penetrate to the deepest layers of spirituality. Yet he still leaves something to ponder, and it is perhaps this withholding of ultimate understanding which makes Barenboim's interpretations so unique and great.

Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, February 28. Benjamin Bar-Am

BACH'S B minor Mass is a very long work and only an excellent performance can do it full justice.

This performance by the Kibutz Chamber Orchestra, the Windsbacher Knabenchor, and the soloists - soprano Efrat Ben-Nun, mezzo Ruth-Maria Nicolay, tenor James Taylor and bass Ulf Bastlein - with conductor Karl Friedrich Beringer on the podium, was a triple disenchantment.

Neither choir, soloists nor the conductor seemed to be truly involved and what we heard was strictly conventional. The conductor Beringer must take responsibility for the debacle. He has neither imagination, charisma, nor understanding and he is unable to catch the listener's attention for more than a few moments.

Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, March 1. Benjamin Bar-Am

THIS was the kind of program we would like to hear more often in the Mann Auditorium: concise, original and outstandingly performed.

Special guest Kurt Masur conducted Schnittke's Symphony No. 7 and Bruckner's towering No. 7, composed almost 100 years before that of Schnittke - the leading Russian composer of our day.

The symphonies have nothing in common. Whereas Bruckner seems to be the last composer to maintain the symphonic tradition of the 19th century, Schnittke detaches himself from everything traditional.

Schnittke's symphony was a complete novelty to this critic and it seems a difficult piece to digest in one sitting. The composer creates a puzzle of short, fragmentary statements by different instruments or groups of instruments, with apparently no connection between them - at least at first.

Although it left this listener cold, one must be deeply indebted to maestro Masur for introducing the symphony, which was written in 1994 and is dedicated to him.

The second part, with Bruckner's Seventh, was a unique event in which Masur created a completely different reality.

Masur's conception is as huge and broad as the expanse of Bruckner's music and the construction Masur built dwarfed everything else. The dark, dog-like second movement, written as

a homage to Wagner, invoked so much sadness and pain that this critic was almost moved to tears.

In the finale, Masur produced huge masses of sound. Under his direction, the strings and woodwinds sang and the brass shone in a brilliant light. The performance left us mentally and emotionally exhausted.

Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, February 2. Benjamin Bar-Am

THE Keshet Baroque Orchestra did one of the season's musical good deeds, in its Concert No. 2, conducted by David Shemer - a program of works mostly by Telemann, a singularly inspired and original but unjustifiably neglected composer.

With his *Schoolmaster*, Telemann actually inaugurated a genre of sharply pointed musical satire (followed later by Pergolesi's *Maestro di Musica*, Cimarosa's *Maestro di Capella*, and Mozart's *Impresario*).

Denis Sedov's formidable, rich, black and deep-reaching bass suffers from a hollering and unstable voice production frequently encountered in Russian singers. His enunciation, intelligible only occasionally, and his bizarre German accent could profit immensely from a professional pronunciation coach.

The Ankor Children's Choir, directed by Semadar Kolben, was a pure joy, not only because singing children are disarmingly cute but, above all, because of their superb voice training and painstakingly shaped expression.

The *Don Quixote* Suite, a classical example of humor in music, would have been more

amusing if the humor were expressed more overtly, with more incisive articulation.

In a concerto for recorder, baroque flute and strings, Eyal Lerner and Idit Shemer complemented each other pleasantly on their different flutes.

The sole non-Telemann work was a viola da gamba concerto by Tartini - quite a surprise from a composer commonly associated with violin works only. Myrna Herzog revealed the work's inherent charm, produced embellishments faithful to the original style, and revived the well-nigh forgotten baroque tradition of rendering self-composed cadenzas.

St. Andrew's Church, Jerusalem, March 2. Ury Eppstein

THE Jerusalem Young Quartet (Sasha Pavlovsky, Sergei Bressler, Amihai Gross, Kyriil Zlotnikov) is a particularly encouraging phenomenon on the local music scene. The way it played in the Youth at the Center series, its 16- to 18-year-old members make one feel that the future is bright for music in Israel.

Whether they're playing Beethoven (Rasumovsky Quartet No. 3), Dvorak (American Quartet) or the contemporary Israeli Michael Wolpe (Quartet No. 2, first movement), these young musicians maintain an uncompromisingly high standard.

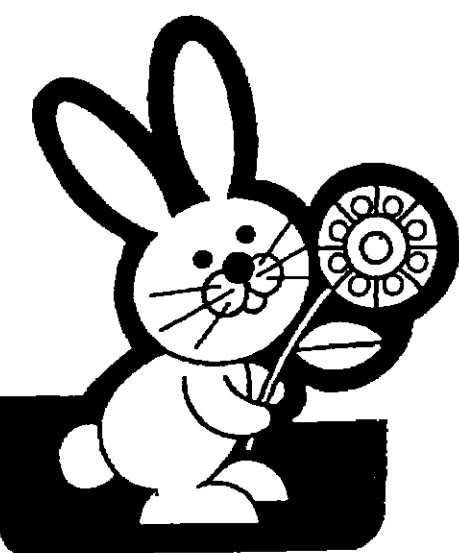
Wolpe's Quartet movement, in its first performance, sounded more melodious and occasionally folkloric than is commonly the case in some of his previous works.

Jerusalem Music Center, Mishkenot Sha'ananim, March 3. Ury Eppstein

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15				
	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	CHARTS	ARTIST
#1	4	28	28	RITA
#2	1	5	5	FILM SOUND TRACK
#3	2	1	1	AVTIPUS
#4	1	1	1	BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN/GREATEST HITS VOL. 1
#5	1	20	20	CRANBERRIES
#6	1	19	19	STING
#7	7	74	74	BOAZ SHARABI
#8	20	8	8	VARIOUS ARTISTS
#9	13	2	2	MONICA SEX
#10	8	2	2	SHALOM HANOCH
#11	3	7	7	P.J. HARVEY
#12	1	1	1	FILM SOUND TRACK
#13	12	2	2	CHIEFTANS
#14	19	2	2	DANA INTERNAT'L
#15	14	13	13	UMPTATAMPA

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry

TUESDAY, APRIL 18



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Metro West Sports Center
Ra'anana
corner Borochoy/Palmach

BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1995

Bloomberg surprisingly quits Mizrahi post

NEIL COHEN

UNITED Mizrahi Bank managing director David Bloomberg announced last night he will resign immediately, although he has informed the bank's board of directors that he will remain in the position until a replacement is found.

The bank said Bloomberg wants to give Mizrahi's new owners, Yuli Ofer and Muzi Wertheim, an opportunity to appoint their own managing director. There have been rumors, however, that Bloomberg was not comfortable with having to report to the strong-minded new owners.

The bank emphasized there was no conflict between Bloomberg and the new owners.

Wertheim said he was sorry Bloomberg was leaving. "Bloomberg did not break a contract but dashed a hope," he said. "While I'm sorry about it, I wish David



Bloomberg: Decides to leave top post at Mizrahi

Bloomberg luck and appreciate his skills and his contribution."

The announcement surprised the financial community. There had been speculation that Bloomberg would resign after the Ofer-Wertheim consortium bought a controlling 26 percent stake in Mizrahi. The rumors, however, died down after Ofer — an oil, property, and shipping tycoon — and Wertheim — the head of the Central Bottling Company which holds the local Coca Cola franchise, expressed their interest in retaining Bloomberg. After the sale, Bloomberg indicated he had no plans to leave.

Before taking over Mizrahi in 1993, Bloomberg headed Bank Tefahot, Mizrahi's mortgage bank subsidiary.

Bank sources said they were not aware of any candidate to replace Bloomberg, and added they had no information on his future plans.

Balance of payments deficit doubles

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE country's balance of payments deficit doubled last year to \$2.76 billion, from \$1.37b. in 1993, as imports of goods and services expanded by \$3.6b., the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The balance of payments, or current account, includes the balance of trade and balance of financial transfers.

The trade deficit jumped 19.6 percent to \$9.71b., as export growth of \$2b. failed to offset a larger increase of \$1.6b. in imports. Although defense imports fell nearly by a third to \$1.46b., civilian imports more than made up for the drop.

Service imports increased \$1.4b., with some 40% of the figure, or \$560 million, accounting for local residents' travel expenses abroad. Nearly the entire \$300m. rise in service exports came from foreign tourist revenues.

According to economists, the significant worsening of the balance of payments was primarily due to the large consumption increase.

Net unilateral transfers — including foreign aid, reparations payments from Germany, and donations — rose a slight 3.1% to \$6.96b. Foreign aid decreased from \$3.2b. to \$2.9b. Unilateral transfers covered only 71.6% of the trade gap, unlike in 1992 when such receipts were 4% higher than the trade deficit.

The country amassed an additional \$3.6b. in debt to cover its balance of payments deficit compared with a \$1.9b. rise in 1993. According to the bureau, last year's debt increase was low, and part of it, which figured as credit to importers, is included in the statistical disparities line that was \$1.68b. last year. The government incurred most of the additional debt through its use of the US loan guarantees.

As foreign debt increased, the country's foreign assets rose to \$2.6b., primarily reflecting the banks' \$2.2b. in deposits abroad.

Foreigners invested \$616m. here compared with \$721m. in 1993. Investment last year, however, was higher due to the stock market's fourth-quarter highs which attracted more than half of the year's foreign investment.

At the end of last year, the net external debt rose to \$16.5b. compared with \$15.7b. in the previous year.

Mexican peso dives to all-time low

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) — Worried investors bailed out of the new peso and sent it tumbling to historic lows yesterday amid growing uncertainty about the future of the troubled Mexican economy.

The new peso closed down 88 centavos to 6.80/6.90 versus the dollar in same-day trading, its lowest point since the government pared three zeros off the currency at the start of 1993.

In futures contracts, the peso dropped to 6.95/7.05 against the dollar before traders said the Banco de Mexico rode to the rescue to prop up the failing currency. At midday, the peso stood at 6.60/6.65, down 37 centavos.

The Mexican stock exchange tracked the peso's fortunes. Bolsa investors jumped in to buy as the currency dropped, then hopped back out as it rose.

The market's key index climbed as much as 40 points before settling back down to a gain of 10.46 points to 1,529.98 before midday.

Traders said the markets were beset by a myriad of woes, most notably fears about the Mexican banking system and concerns about mounting opposition in the Mexican Congress to the terms of a \$20 billion US aid package to stabilize the country's battered economy.

The seizure on Friday of Mexico's eighth-largest bank, Banpais, confirmed suspicions that the banking system, weakened by the peso drop and high interest rates, was in for a rough ride, traders said.

"My feeling is that (the drop in the peso) has to do with the banks. They are not going to have an easy time of it," one analyst said.

The Finance Ministry said on Friday it had taken over Banpais because of low capital reserves, a problem that is expected to crop up in many banks as Mexico's economic recession deepens.

The US aid package, already signed by the Clinton administration and Mexican Finance Minister Guillermo Ortiz, was expected to come under close scrutiny starting on Monday in the Mexican Congress.

The Congress has traditionally been a rubber stamp for Mexican presidents, but legislators have complained that the severe austerity measures imposed by the accord were certain to kill near-term economic growth.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Liraz Systems reported 1994 fourth-quarter profits of NIS 1m. compared with NIS 411,000 in the same period last year, on revenues of NIS 23.4m., up from NIS 9m. in 1993.

Elbit Vision Systems has been awarded the Rothschild prize for I-TEX, a unique computerized fabric inspection system.

Clalcom sells outstanding share capital: Clal subsidiary Clalcom has sold 25.1% of its outstanding share capital to the Renaissance Fund in a private placement for \$8.4m. Clal will register a capital gain of \$5m. from the sale. Renaissance owns some one-third of Paz outstanding share and 25% of Azorim, which recently purchased controlling interest in Shikun Ufiah.

Optibase attracts Japanese investment: The Nippon Investment and Finance Company has made a \$1m. investment in Optibase. Triangle Technologies, which arranged the investment, said the firm, which specializes in digital compression for the video and audio market, could expect additional Japanese investments during the year.

Panel okays bill for public director grace period: A public director will have to wait at least a year after leaving his post before he can be appointed as an ordinary director in a publicly-traded company, according to a bill approved by the Knesset Law Committee yesterday. The bill, by Ariel Weinstein (Likud), also states employees of any subsidiary or affiliate of such a firm must wait a year after leaving before being named a public director in that company. The bill will now be sent for its second and third readings.

Befucha Securities has begun operating a telephone hotline offering customers information on provident funds. The hotline operates in the firm's offices in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa.

WORLD BRIEFS

Lucas wins 'billion sterling' deal with Volkswagen: British automotive and aerospace components group Lucas Industries Plc said yesterday it had won a deal worth at least £1 billion to supply Volkswagen AG with advanced fuel injection systems.

It said the deal, for a range of diesel engines, was the biggest single automotive contract in the company's history.

The firm gave no precise figure for the total value of the contract but called it a "billion sterling" deal. It described the deal as a long-term contract with Volkswagen worth £150 million a year.

News of the order boosted Lucas shares, which rose six pence to 187 by 1430 GMT.

Lyonnais des Eaux to bid for Northumbrian: French water services and construction group Lyonnaise des Eaux SA said yesterday it would make a cash bid for British regional water utility Northumbrian Water Group Plc — which promptly rejected the deal.

Although Lyonnaise des Eaux did not set any terms pending an anticipated inquiry by Britain's Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC), analysts reckoned that it might have to pay at least 900 pence per share for a total cost of some £610m.

Shares in Northumbrian, one of the 10 regional water and sewage firms in England and Wales privatized through share offers in 1989, surged on the news, touching a new high of 920 pence before easing back to 860, up 118 pence from Friday.

Rowland takes legal action against Lonrho: Tiny Rowland, sacked last week from Lonrho Plc, started legal action yesterday for wrongful dismissal against the group he founded 34 years ago.

"Rowland has issued a writ against Lonrho claiming substantial damages for wrongful dismissal," his lawyers Cameron Markby said in a brief statement.

"He has received advice that he has a strong claim and will prosecute the action vigorously," it added.

Court okays ING takeover of Barings

LONDON (Reuters) — A London court yesterday cleared the takeover of failed British investment bank Barings by giant Dutch finance group ING, which will have to cover losses amounting to \$1.5 billion.

The Dutch banking and insurance group reached a deal late on Sunday to buy almost all of the bank that has served the British establishment for 233 years. But ING needed a go-ahead from the High Court in London before it could finalize the deal.

The court approved an accord in principle between Barings' administrators and Internationale Nederlanden Groep NV for the Dutch group to take on virtually all the assets and liabilities of the Barings companies.

ING said it would pay all creditors and depositors in full and promised Barings' employees would be paid their bonuses by year's end — except Nick Leeson, the trader blamed for the downfall.

It said it would keep all Barings

4,000 employees and the acquisition was welcomed by the Bank of England which also gave its formal authorization to the newly formed Barings Bank Ltd.

A lawyer for the administrators said at the start of the hearing that Barings' losses in Asian financial markets stood at £916 million pounds.

ING has now agreed to pump £765m. into Barings.

Away from the court, pressure was mounting for a fully independent inquiry into the circumstances surrounding Barings' collapse under the weight of trades on Asian futures markets by one of its traders, Nick Leeson.

Kenneth Clarke, Britain's finance minister, has set up an inquiry under the Bank of England, and he said yesterday this should discover whether the regulatory system needed improving.

But Alistair Darling, finance spokesman for the opposition Labour Party, said the central bank may have failed in its role as

banking supervisor, and he called for an independent inquiry.

"There is now quite a substantial body of evidence that suggests that not only Barings knew there was a problem but also that the supervisor (the Bank of England) ought to have known there was a problem," he said.

Evidence is growing that Barings executives in London were aware of the potential for disaster in their Singapore office, where Leeson gambled billions of dollars on the future direction of the Tokyo stock market but got it catastrophically wrong.

The Financial Times reported yesterday that senior Barings officials decided at a meeting on January 26 — a month before the bank collapsed — that Leeson should cut his holdings of futures contracts "when possible."

In fact, he increased them. Leeson is now in prison in Frankfurt, where he was detained last Thursday after an international manhunt.

Clal Electronics to invest \$9m. in US firm

RACHEL NEIMAN

CLAL Electronics will invest \$9 million in a US-based manufacturer/developer of advanced semiconductors.

The company, however, did not reveal the name of its American partner.

Clal Electronics will invest \$4.5m. over the next two years in the local subsidiary of a US-based firm in return for 51 percent of outstanding capital share. The subsidiary was established here following the transfer of know-how by the parent company.

Clal will also purchase 10% of the parent company's shares from current shareholders for an additional \$4.5m.

Following the purchase, the US-based parent company will own 49% of the local subsidiary.

The agreement will be completed after the parent firm is registered on NASDAQ. A share issue is planned for May.

Treasury to sue university heads over wage pact

THE Treasury will shortly file several suits in district court against the heads of the country's universities over their serious violations of the wage agreements signed with them a year ago.

Treasury Wage Director Yossi Kucik told a press conference yesterday that the decision to file the suits was taken in consultation with Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair after the university lecturers refused to change the criteria under which they were to receive differential bonuses.

Kucik said when the lecturers ended their strike, it was agreed to pay them for extra work. This pay, called a differential bonus, was to be given to 65-70 percent of the lecturers, but in practice it was given to all of them.

Kucik blamed the university heads for this. "Is presenting research results or teaching master's degree students how to write a master's thesis extra work," he said.

Prof. Amos Komornik, who headed the lecturers' union at the time of the strike, said in reply that the criteria for the bonus were not universal, but were established by the Faculty Senate of each individual university.

"It wasn't agreed that only 65%-70% of the lecturers were to receive the bonus," he said, "but that if 100% met the criteria, 100% would receive it."

Kucik also told the press conference that labor unrest is now

prevalent in the public sector, and there is a possibility that the recently signed wage agreements will be broken.

He said the unrest is particularly strong in the Housing Ministry, the National Insurance Institute, among tax and customs workers, and in the Prime Minister's Office.

"I intend to uphold the agreement to the letter," he said, "and will not respond to demands for salary increases during the agreement's lifetime." (Itm)

Arens: Gov't is leading defense industries to demise

STEVE RODAN

FORMER defense minister Moshe Arens said yesterday that the government's insistence that the country's defense industries operate on a purely profitable basis may lead to their demise.

"It seems there are policymakers who are telling the defense industries 'sink or swim,'" Arens said at a defense industries conference. "They are saying if you can't sell abroad then close your doors. I fear we are heading in that direction."

Arens said the government has no policy for the industries' future or the role they should play in the country's defense strategy. He urged continued local support for the industries, but added they should be privatized so they become self-sufficient.

Researcher Gerald Steinberg agreed with Arens's statements. He said the collapse of the defense industries would mean the demise of

the country's R&D program. He added that the industries' crisis has long-term implications, which the government refuses to recognize.

The IDF Quartermaster General, Maj. Gen. Hagai Shalom, said the IDF would continue to remain in the defense industry despite the opposition by the government and private firms.

Shalom added the IDF will not embark on the manufacture of any major weapons system over the next five years, with the exception of the Merkava 3.

Kibbutz industries' exports up 17%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

KIBBUTZ industries exports grew 17 percent last year while local sales increased 7.5% despite their difficult financing conditions, the Kibbutz Industries Association chairman said yesterday.

Micha Heretz said he is concerned over the industries' future business performance, especially exports.

"The fact that the exchange rate is frozen is damaging to the industry. Exports continue to grow, but the sector is not taking full advantage of the potential of overseas export markets and if

things do not change in future, exports will suffer," he said.

Heretz said the imbalance between high interest rates and exchange rate is also damaging. The chairman said the shortage of capital, mainly due to a delay in the kibbutz debt arrangement, continues to slow down kibbutz industrial growth.

Heretz added that significant growth can be achieved only through increased marketing in both new and old markets, including the Middle East, south

and east Asia, and the CIS. The chairman also urged the industries to strengthen high-tech activities.

Managing director Oded Barish said the 420 kibbutz industries recorded sales of NIS 7.926 billion, including \$858m. in exports. Plastics and rubber accounted for 33% of all sales followed by food (17%) and metals and machinery (13.5%).

He said the 13% rise in the industries' total work force last year — from 21,800 to 24,650 — was the highest single-year growth over the last five years.

Kessar wants to privatize Jaffa Port

RACHEL NEIMAN

TRANSPORTATION Minister Yisrael Kessar said yesterday he will try to privatize Jaffa Port, which is estimated at \$72 million.

Kessar said that the port should be turned into a tourist attraction soon. "Like the old Tel Aviv Port (in north Tel Aviv) the Jaffa Port is located on a very expensive and attractive plot of land," he said.

Some one million visitors entered the port last year. In 1996, Jaffa will mark its 5,000 anniversary, when two million visitors are expected to visit the city.

Revenues for the port are expected to reach \$4m. this year. Kessar added that he is working towards establishing marinas in Ashkelon, Acre, and Herzliya.

"Israel could be a central station, serving the entire Mediterranean Sea basin. As of today, there are not enough docking points for those yachts wishing to reach our nation's shores."

Free vegetables for immigrant groups serving needy

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

IMMIGRANT groups serving the needy will be entitled to receive vegetables free of charge as part of attempts by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Vegetable Board to remove market surpluses and prevent further price drops.

Vegetable Board managing director Efraim Shalom said yesterday. He said the vegetables will be distributed, at crop-growing areas, to organizations recognized by the Ministry of Labor and

Social Affairs. Last month, the ministry and board also transferred 2,000 tons of surplus tomatoes to industry at reduced prices to insure a minimum price to farmers.

In February, the board sold about 15 percent of the monthly tomato production to industry at 15 agorot per kg. and then paid farmers an extra 57 agorot per

kg. to increase the payment to 72 agorot per kg.

The ministry said high-quality green house tomatoes now sell for NIS 1.00-NIS 1.20 per kg. on the wholesale market and for NIS 2.00-NIS 2.50 on the retail market.

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur expects vegetable prices to continue to drop during the summer and also forecasts a surplus of fruit this summer.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (7.3.95)				
	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
Currency deposit (for)				
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.50	5.50	5.125	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.75	5.125	5.125	
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.625	3.75	4.50	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.525	2.875	3.500	
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.825	0.875	

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (6.3.95)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rate
Currency basket	3.4180	3.4670	—	3.4441
U.S. dollar	2.9484	2.9959	2.89	2.9580
German mark	2.1019	2.1311	2.05	2.0206
Pound sterling	4.8678	4.8993	4.76	4.8054
French franc	0.5944	0.6026	0.57	0.5891
Japanese yen (100)	3.1890	3.2136	3.11	3.1673
Dutch florin	1.6745	1.6936	1.64	1.6604
Swiss franc	2.5114	2.5468	2.46	2.4989
Swedish krona	0.4088	0.4147	0.40	0.4068
Norwegian krona	2.1712	2.2018	2.05	2.0867
Finland mark	0.4720	0.4797	0.46	0.4770
Canadian dollar	0.5267	0.5311	0.51	0.5281
Australian dollar	0.8223	0.8319	0.81	0.8287
S. African rand	2.0990	2.1184	2.05	2.1057
Belgian franc (10)	2.1712	2.2018	2.05	2.0867
Austrian schilling (10)	0.8326	0.8416	0.77	0.785
Italian lire (1000)	1.0209	1.0353	1.00	1.025
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5912	2.6222	2.52	2.5706
Israeli sheqel (1000)	1.7772	1.8222	1.73	1.7891
Jordanian dinar	—	—	0.16	0.164
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.84	0.849
ECU	3.8826	3.9271	3.76	3.8182
Irish punt	4.8222	4.8972	4.71	4.770
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3306	2.3636	2.28	2.3368

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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מכון המסחר

Key Representative Rates

US dollar ... NIS 2.9680	-0.50%
Sterling ... NIS 4.9054	+2.38%
Mark ... NIS 2.1208	+3.04%

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

Multi-sided trading

Commercial	Price	Change
Bankers	118.50	-0.10
Bankers	118.50	-0.10
Bankers	118.50	-0.10

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100	2901.9	-22.1
S&P 500	704.07	-0.11
Nikkei 225	15,018.00	-115.00

Israeli stocks in NY

NYSE / AMEX	Price	Change
Amir	43.75	+1.125
Amir	43.75	+1.125
Amir	43.75	+1.125

Commodity Trading Ltd. (Data 5-MAR-95)

Commodity	Price	Change
Gold	380.00	+0.50
Silver	160.00	+0.10
Copper	1.50	+0.01

LIBOR RATES

Rate	Price	Change
3 month	6.375	0.00
6 month	6.375	0.00
12 month	6.375	0.00

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Country	Value	Change
USA	100.00	+0.00
UK	100.00	+0.00
FR	100.00	+0.00

US commodities

Commodity	Price	Change
Wheat	1.20	+0.01
Corn	1.10	+0.01
Soybeans	1.00	+0.01

London commodities

Commodity	Price	Change
Gold	380.00	+0.50
Silver	160.00	+0.10
Copper	1.50	+0.01

Spot market metals (US)

Commodity	Price	Change
Gold	380.00	+0.50
Silver	160.00	+0.10
Copper	1.50	+0.01

New York metal futures

Commodity	Price	Change
Gold	380.00	+0.50
Silver	160.00	+0.10
Copper	1.50	+0.01

London metal futures

Commodity	Price	Change
Gold	380.00	+0.50
Silver	160.00	+0.10
Copper	1.50	+0.01

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Multi-sided trading

Commercial	Price	Change
Bankers	118.50	-0.10
Bankers	118.50	-0.10
Bankers	118.50	-0.10

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Company	Price	Change
Amir	43.75	+1.125
Amir	43.75	+1.125
Amir	43.75	+1.125

Dollar's decline pushes market down

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBROSO

Two-Sided index	150.23	-1.89%
Maof index	151.08	-2.01%
Karam index	125.57	-0.59%

THE Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, like the world's major exchanges, fell sharply in reaction to the dollar's sharp decline yesterday. The Two-Sided index fell by 1.9 percent and the Maof index dropped 2 percent. Only the Karam index posted a minor decline, only because trading took place in the morning, before the full extent of the US currency's slide became known. Turnover was NIS 59 million.

The foreign exchange market in Israel was also affected by sizeable dollar sales - during the day, it reached an all-time low of NIS 2.94. At that time, major institutions, and in particular the Bank of Israel, intervened to prevent a sharp revaluation of the shekel relative to the dollar, and by day's end, the exchange rate stabilized at NIS 2.98.

This activity did not make the local market particularly attractive as both buyers and sellers tended to stay away. The day started with a relatively small surplus of selling orders, which normally would lead to minor declines. No one was buying while the European exchanges

FTSE falls 23 points

LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar's slide knocked down UK shares, but selling pressure remained light throughout a calm session in which only the power generator stocks grabbed any substantial business.

"It was dollar watching," said a dealer. "The currency dragged the overall market down while investors were preoccupied with PowerGen and National Power."

The FTSE 100 finished down 23.2 points at 3,001.9. Dealers said they saw scope for the market to rebound upwards tomorrow as they believed investors were over concerned with the US currency's weakness.

FRANKFURT - The strong mark pulled German shares lower yesterday on worries the currency's strength may severely hamper German companies' exports.

The 30 share DAX index had plunged 1.86 percent by the close, falling 39.17 points to 2,070.32 and drifted another half a point in after-hours dealings.

Losses were accelerated by sales in the futures contracts, dealers added. But dealers said the market should stay above 2,050 in the next few sessions.

Although German Bunds had earlier supported share prices, supportive strength was sapped as Bunds pared gains.

The market also remained worried by the German metals worker strike which entered its 11th day today.

Although talks between the union and employers were set to resume today and an agreement could be seen as early as this week, dealers said the market would only breathe easier once the strike was finally ended.

Automobile and chemical stocks, traditionally sensitive to currency movements, lead decliners today on fears exports may be severely impacted by the mark's strength.

Chemical giant Bayer AG shares were down 6.50 marks at 350.50 while automaker Daimler-Benz AG shares plunged 15.90 marks to 678.50.

PARIS - French shares partially bounced, having hit new lows, to finish with a loss of over one percent on the CAC-40 index. Traders said equities were caught in the crossfire of acute dollar and peseta weakness, with the ever-present political risk of the French presidential race giving no help. The CAC-40 index closed down 21.99, or 1.22%, at 1,773.25. It hit a day-low of 1,769, before finding technical support.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks ended little changed after temporary falls and gains. Investors, surprised by stocks' resilience during the morning despite the yen's surge against the dollar, placed buy orders that underpinned stock indices. But only sporadic buying was seen in the market and few participants dared to buy up shares in the absence of fresh incentives, they said. The Nikkei share average ended up 1.10 points at 17,047.72.

HONG KONG - Stocks signed off a quiet day with moderate losses amid concerns over the weak dollar. The blue chip Hang Seng Index shed 91.24 points to close at 8,093.91.

Dow up 8 points

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue chips rallied to a higher close yesterday as strength in pace-setting stocks such as IBM and Philip Morris helped the market overcome a sell-off fueled by the dollar's plunge to a record low against the Japanese yen.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended with a gain of 7.95 points at 3,977.56, based on early and unofficial data. Early in the session, the index was off more than 30 points.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFR	FFr
MARK	2.280/11	150.60/72	1.065/92	8.075/267
YEN	1.512/48	0.632/45	1.252/75	3.538/67
SFR	119.47/61	0.232/45	79.94/99	4.223/60
FFr	0.282/12	0.123/78	18.82/67	0.235/63

Eilat windsurfing tourney starts today

IN THE wake of the recently signed peace treaty with Jordan, four Jordanian windsurfers will participate in the 10th International ASA (Academic Sports Association) Boardsailing Championships which begin today in Eilat. Competition will be held in 12 categories in the Olympic Mistral class, the raceboard and the funboard.

Leading the list of 200 windsurfers, representing nine countries is Dorien de Vries from the Netherlands, bronze medalist in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics as well as runner-up in the 1994 European Championships.

Also competing are Chris Sieber from

Austria, third-place finisher in the '94 European Championships; Spain's Augusto Garcia, '94 raceboard European champion; Dorota Staszewska from Poland, '93 women's world champion and Tim Stadde, member of the German Olympic team and No. 4 in the world.

Israel is represented by '94 Olympian Amit Inbar, currently ranked fifth in the world; Amir Levinson, world youth champion; Gal Friedman, European youth champion and Michael Hein, national women's champion.

JOE HOFFMAN

Also competing are racers from Hungary and England. Except for Israel, Poland has the largest contingent with six.

For the first time, the winners of the Eilat competition will gain points in their international rankings.

Today's first race will be launched from Akaba as part of the Isrotel Peace Rally. Attending the opening ceremony will be representatives of the Jordanian government, including Simon Khouri, chairman of the Jordanian Water Sports Authority. Representing Israel are deputy minister for

education, culture and sport Micha Goldman and Eilat Mayor Gabi Kadosh.

On Thursday, the top 13 competitors from the previous day's races will take part in the King's Regatta from Eilat to Akaba. A personal representative of King Hussein is expected to distribute the prizes to the tournament's winners.

Recognizing Israel's ever-growing contributions to boardsailing, the 1996 European Championships in Mistral and raceboard will be held in Haifa, according to Aharon Botzer, chairman of the International Yacht Racing Union's Boardsailing committee.

Galil moves into 2nd place with Hap TA, Holon

JOEL GORDIN

HAPOEL Galil Eilat defeated Hapoel Tel Aviv last night 103-88 at Kfar Blum in the final game of the national league's 24th round. With only two rounds left, Galil, Hapoel Tel Aviv and Hapoel Holon are now all in second place.

As a result of the loss, Tel Aviv's chances of making the Final Four are now shaky.

Ironically, the visitors led for much of the first half by as much as six points. Lior Arditi, who scored 18 in the first half, gave the team the upper hand, more than making up for scoreless Buck Johnson.

However, Galil passed the visitors even before the break, when Darryn Daye entered the fray and showed some of the form which last season made him one of Europe's leading scorers, when he played in Italy.

Galil led by 46-37 at the break and never looked back. Oded Katash not only scored 16, but neutralized

Arditi on defense. Daye (33 points overall) continued to rout Tel Aviv, helped by Erez Hazzan (19), Katash and Brad Leaf (17).

Tel Aviv's last-minute struggle to close Galil's lead on 11 points was ruined when a technical foul was awarded against Arditi and Katash banded in four in a row.

For Tel Aviv, Milton Wagner scored 18 points, Arditi the same (all in the first half) and James Terry 11.

National Basketball League

	W	L	Pts.
1. Maccabi Tel Aviv	22	2	46
2. Hapoel Holon	18	8	40
3. Hapoel Tel Aviv	16	8	40
4. Hapoel Galil Eilat	16	8	40
5. Maccabi Rishon	15	9	39
6. Hapoel Haifa	15	9	39
7. Hapoel Jerusalem	14	10	38
8. Hapoel Eilat	13	11	37
9. Maccabi Jerusalem	12	12	36
10. Maccabi Ramat Gan	10	14	34
11. Hapoel Givat	9	15	33
12. Hapoel Haifa	8	16	30
13. Hapoel Gushatim	4	20	28
14. Bnei Ramat Gan	0	24	24

Mount St. Mary's makes it to 1st NCAA

NEW YORK (AP) — Jim Phelan is 65 years old and has been the basketball coach at Mount St. Mary's, Maryland, since he was 25. He's second only to Dean Smith among active coaches with 737 victories, and you'd think he'd done it all by now.

In 10 days, Phelan will mark a first in his vintage career when he takes Mount St. Mary's to the NCAA college basketball championship tournament for the first time.

"I played in the NIT (National Invitation Tournament) and I coached as an assistant in the NCAA with La Salle," Phelan said. "I've been there before, but I'm thankful to be taking my own team. This was one of the things we really wanted."

Mount St. Mary's (17-12) earned the trip on Sunday with a 69-62 victory over Rider in the title game of the Northeast Conference tournament. Silas Cheung scored all 19 of his points in the second half as Mount St. Mary's rallied to win.

The trip is Mount St. Mary's first to the tournament since joining Division I in 1988-89. In other games Sunday involv-

ing ranked teams, it was No. 1 UCLA 91, Louisville 73; No. 3 Kansas 78, No. 18 Oklahoma State 62; No. 13 Virginia 92, No. 6 Maryland 67; No. 8 Massachusetts 79, Duquesne 53; No. 10 Michigan State 67, Indiana 61; St. John's 86, No. 23 Georgetown 77, and No. 24 Iowa State 79, Nebraska 77.

No. 1 UCLA 91, Louisville 73. Ed O'Bannon scored 25 points and Tyus Edney 20 as visiting UCLA dominated the inside in turning back Louisville for its 11th straight victory.

UCLA (23-2) held a 40-22 advantage in rebounds and scored numerous baskets on putbacks and dunks. Toby Briley had 11 rebounds to lead the Bruins' inside attack that scored 25 second-chance points.

UCLA outscored Louisville 18-4 in the final 2:29 to turn back an upset bid and defeat the Cardinals for the fifth straight time.

No. 3 Kansas 78, No. 18 Oklahoma State 62. Jacques Vaughn and Billy Thomas led host Kansas to its 42nd Big Eight Conference championship with a second-half charge. The Cowboys' star center, Bryant Reeves, went scoreless for the first time in his career.

In only the second title-deciding regular season finale the Big Eight has seen in 50 years, Kansas overcame a brilliant 45-point performance by Randy Rutherford, who set the Big Eight career record for 3-pointers.

America's Cup oneAustralia sinks in harsh weather

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Technology once carried John Bertrand to a stunning America's Cup victory, but this time a technological failure sent his oneAustralia yacht to the bottom of the Pacific Ocean.

It was the first time in the 144-year history of the America's Cup that a boat sank during a race.

In a devastating blow to one of the best sailing teams in the world, the \$3 million, 75-foot yacht broke Sunday in two in heavy wind and fierce waves, and sank within two minutes. All 17 crewmembers were rescued.

"We heard a loud crack, just like a cannon going off," said Bertrand, who thought the rigging was coming down. "And then the boat appeared to start to fold like a sheet of cardboard through the center, and [there was] this sickening sound as the boat was breaking apart."

Despite the suddenness of the accident, the Australians didn't panic.

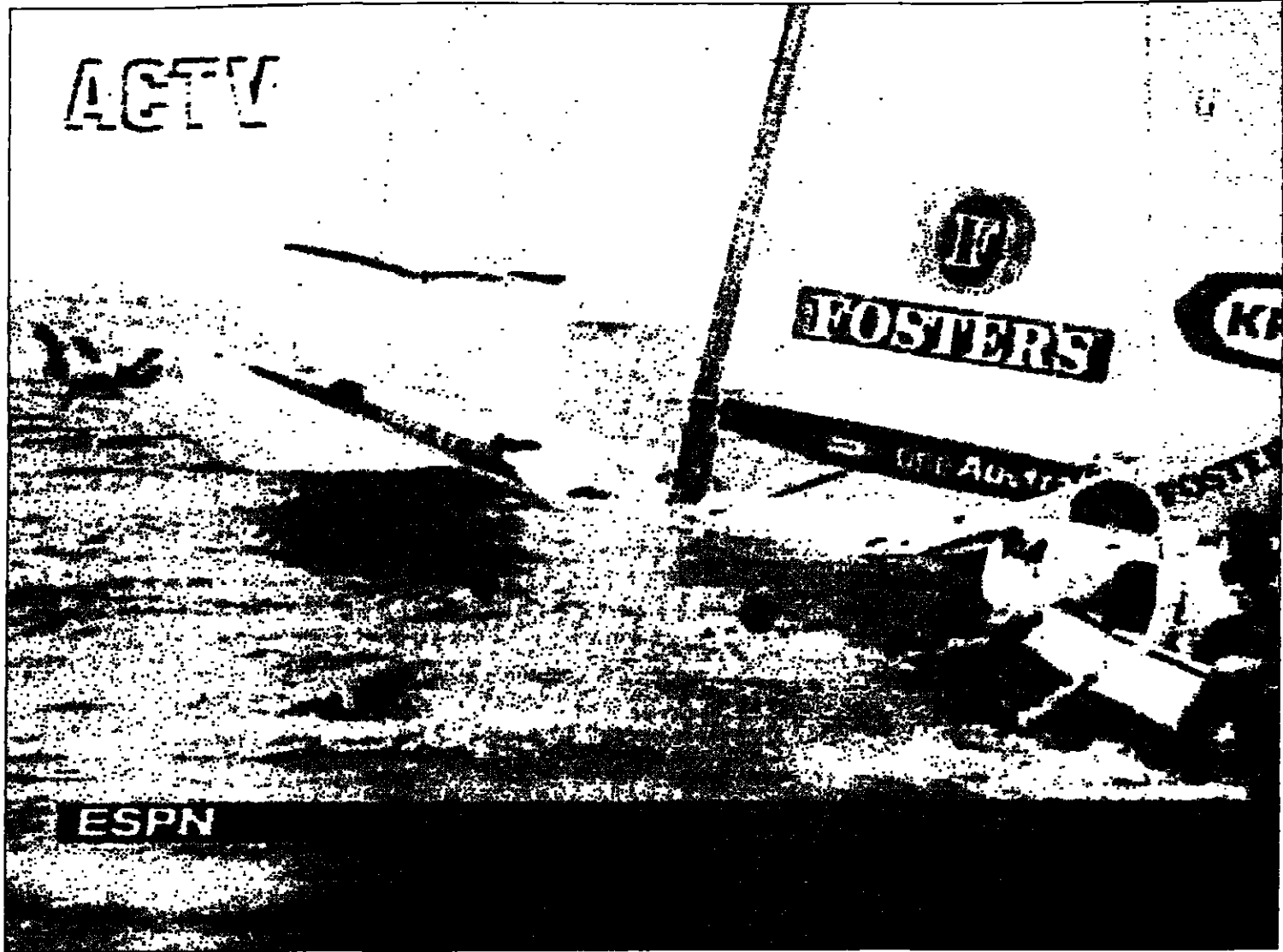
Concerned that the rigging would collapse on the sailors, "We told everyone to take off their boots and get the hell out of there," Bertrand said.

"Half the team were in the water still, being picked up by the chase boats, when the top of the mast was disappearing into the ocean," he said. "It's unbelievable."

Also Sunday, France 3 dismantled and a Stars and Stripes crewman was left dangling upside down from the running backstay, 65 feet off the deck, after losing his grip while descending from making a repair.

Bertrand said oneAustralia came off a wave or series of waves at the leeward mark and the crew heard a crack.

Chasing Team New Zealand on the windward third leg, through a rain squall, the crew had just completed a tack onto starboard and was winding the sails when the gumleaf green hull



WASHED UP — Crew members from oneAustralia leap off their sinking boat after it broke apart Sunday.

buckled about 5 feet aft of the mast.

The crew abandoned ship as the hull folded in on itself, and chase boats from both teams raced in. New Zealand's chase boat picked up 10 crewmembers, including Bertrand and helmsman Rod Davis.

Bertrand, winner of the 1983 America's Cup in one of the biggest upsets in sport, found him-

self in a position he'd never anticipated.

"You don't practice abandoning a ship that's going to the bottom of the ocean," he said.

Two crewmembers were below decks when the yacht cracked. One of them, sewerman Billy Bates, thought the rig had collapsed, and he continued packing the spinnaker that had been doused at the mark.

Besides the foul-weather gear,

only a sail bag and a piece of debris floated on the surface.

The Australians are expected to ask an international jury permission to use its old yacht, which was used in the first two round-robins. Jury chairman John Doerr said such a request would be honored.

The newer oneAustralia made its debut February 17. At the time of the accident, it was trailing Team New Zealand by 12

points in the challenger standings. Both had already qualified for the semifinals. After oneAustralia sank, Team New Zealand continued on a short way and dropped out.

The only race that was completed was Sydney 95 beating Nippon by 1 minute, 22 seconds, although Nippon protested that the race went on in such conditions.

Turn on, tune in, and don't tell me the score before I watch it 'live'

IT'S been a winter of great contentment for us sports fans with a particular fondness for tennis, cricket, and rugby.

Even though the weather over here is now decidedly less wintry, when it was cold and wet just a month or two ago, we were warmed by Prime Sports' coverage of the Australian Open tennis and the Ashes cricket series from Down Under.

The tennis coverage, almost all of it live, was well worth the effort of staying up into the wee hours.

The cricket, too, even though it was utterly abysmal from an Englishman's point of view, kept us Anglophiles on tenterhooks for most of the early winter months. The Test match coverage on Prime was not live, but it kept many locals in suspense until the highlights had begun in the late afternoon.

Not wanting to know what had happened through the night, many people who value their excitement made sure nobody told them what had transpired while they had been catching their beauty sleep, and kept well away from people who might want to strike up a conversation, usually about England's latest woeful performance with bat and ball.

The same was true of the Australian Open men's and women's finals which, for some reason, Prime did not have the rights to show live, but only on tape delay. While it is not so difficult for somebody in Israel to cut himself off from the cricket world, the same cannot be said of a major tennis tournament.

Not wishing to know the result of the final, I literally had to turn off all the radios and TVs, disconnect the answering machine and plug my ears so as not to be told the result before I could watch it "live."

But eventually, when Prime finally got the big show in the road,

SPORTSWATCH

ORI LEWIS

it managed to undo all my hard work. By accidentally switching tapes in the middle, it showed the prize-giving ceremony in the middle of the match and the unwitting viewers found out the result before the end.

In case you forgot, Agassi beat a weary Sampras in four sets, after an amazing two weeks of men's and women's tennis.

As far as the rugby goes, we have had a real treat, and are in for some more, as winter in South Africa approaches.

The Five Nations Championship has been a real boon for supporters of England, which knocked the hell out of their opponents with some superb play, particularly by the forwards. We now look forward to a great showdown for the Grand Slam between England and Scotland at Twickenham a week from Saturday. My remote control was working extra hard on Saturday, as I flicked between the utterly forgettable Hapoel Beersheba-Hapoel Petah Tikva goalless draw, so calmly commented by Yoram Arbel, and the beguiling Scottish brogue of Bill McLaren describing Scotland's demolition of Wales at Murrayfield.

Come Saturday March 18, the remote will be hidden and all eyes will concentrate on the big match from Twickenham.

When summer arrives for us, we will be able to turn our attention to the World Cup from South Africa. Prime has promised live coverage. I hope that includes the final as well, and if not, the station should tell us now so we can prepare a total news blackout on the big day.

SNOOKER is one sport which has been ominously missing from Channel 5's schedule recently.

It is not surprising that Israelis have come to love the sport, and Channel 5 did a good job with the overly reserved Yoram Shimron and over-enthusiastic Boaz Evron providing the local voice-overs. They kept the audiences captivated, and have made Steve Davis, Stephen Hendry, Jimmy White, John Parrott, and Ronnie O'Sullivan not only household names, but instantly recognizable.

Not only that, Israelis have finally been made aware that snooker is very respectable, and what's more, very difficult at the highest level.

In the meantime, we rely on Eurosport for some fine coverage in the European Snooker League.

CHANNEL 1 has at last got its act together and began showing live Second Division soccer matches on the weekend. They had procrastinated for weeks and only decided on Saturday's coverage at the last minute.

There was little, if any, pre-game hype done by Channel 1, which was deprived of National League coverage by Channel 2 at the beginning of the season.

The lack of some kind of decent promo would appear to suggest that the boys from Romema are showing the Second Division only because they have to.

But as it turned out, Hapoel Jerusalem's 3-1 victory over Maccabi Jaffa was a far better game than the National League encounter in Beersheba shown that evening on Channel 2.

The Second Division does not sound like a happy hunting ground for television, but Channel 1 will probably now realize that it can make its league coverage more attractive, if it really wants to. It now has a chance to improve its poor act. Live games will be screened every Saturday until the end of the season.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Faldo wins Doral Ryder Open
Nick Faldo won his first tournament in the US since the 1990 Masters, shooting a 3-under-par 69 and surviving a drive into the water on the 18th hole in Miami Sunday to win the Doral Ryder Open by one stroke.

Faldo put his tee shot into the water on the final hole, but then reached the green with a 3-wood and two-putted for bogey. He finished at 15-under 273.

Bobek makes championships
US champion Nicole Bobek shrugged off her troubles with a solid performance yesterday to qualify for the World Figure Skating Championships.

Bobek, performing for the first time since word of her run-in with the law was leaked to the press, smiled her way through her *Doctor Zhivago* routine and placed ahead of expected medal-contender and Olympic bronze-medalist Lu Chen.

NZ takes first innings lead

Adam Parore missed his second Test century of the summer, but his 89 was enough to guide New Zealand past South Africa's first innings total by the end of play yesterday in its Auckland Test.

When stumps were drawn at the close on the third day, New Zealand was 316 for seven wickets, a lead of 22 runs.

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NHL — Sunday's results: Chicago 3, Anaheim 4; Edmonton 4, Detroit 2; Boston 5, Hartford 2; Buffalo 4, Montreal 1; Ottawa 3, N.Y. Islanders 1; Philadelphia 6, Pittsburgh 4; Washington 4, N.Y. Rangers 1; Winnipeg 3, Calgary 2; Dallas 2, St. Louis 1.

NBA — Sunday's results: New Jersey 99, Milwaukee 94; Miami 103, Washington 94; San Antonio 124, Phoenix 103; Phoenix 112, Golden State 112; Orlando 113, Atlanta 111 (OT); Sacramento 88, Charlotte 80; L.A. Lakers 105, Minnesota 102.

DOG SLED RACING — Charlie Bonfield led the Iditarod dog sled race into Finger Lake yesterday, 194 miles from the ceremonial start at Anchorage.

Bonfield arrived in Finger Lake at 5:55 a.m. Alaskan time, and pulled out again 15 minutes later.

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מכירת נדל"ן

Shohat readies recovery plan for pension funds

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat said yesterday that he would present a recovery program for the pension funds to the cabinet on Sunday.

The government's economic policy was also the subject of a no-confidence motion in the Knesset yesterday by the Likud, National Religious Party, and Tsomet. The motion was defeated 49 to 40; Hashd MKs Tamar Gozansky and Ha-

shem Mahameed abstained.

Later, at a Labor faction meeting, which Shohat described as more damning than the plenum discussion, he rejected proposals for a national pension law. Shohat said it would cause a "huge shock to the economy."

He said the public had decided to leave pension funds in favor of savings plans because they had a bad year in 1994. Shohat said he thought

the public had made a mistake. Although there are still people leaving the pension funds, the numbers are declining, he said.

At the end of the meeting, the faction said it "sees provident funds as a stable, long-term investment most of which is covered by govern-

No-confidence motion defeated 49-40

LIAT COLLINS

ment bonds." The party also called on the Bank of Israel to lower the interest rates.

Shohat told the plenum that although there are problems, the standard of living in Israel is high, un-

employment has dropped, there is economic growth, exports are up, and investments are growing.

"I'm optimistic," he said, though he said measures need to be taken to preserve economic equilibrium, make the burden of taxation fairer, and prevent economic growth from

dropping. Shohat said the no-confidence motion was unjustified considering the amount of government spending on infrastructure, education and in view of the fact that it is carrying out a privatization program originally supported by the right.

Tsomet MK Pini Badash called the government's economic policy "a policy of zigzags and opinion polls."

Both Badash and Likud MK Moshe Shetret said 1994 would have been a good year for the economy had it not been for government policy. Badash attacked the government for printing money. "The imaginary growth in the Israeli economy is the result of the increased demand and printing of money which is a dead-end road," Badash said. He said the government should have carried out its "options" plans in 1993.

Ben-Porat blasts GSS on interrogation

LIAT COLLINS

THE General Security Service and its former head were blasted by State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat at a special meeting of the Knesset Comptroller and Foreign Affairs and Defense committees.

The two committee heads, Likud's David Magen and Labor's Ori Orr, were the only MKs allowed to attend the meeting, which discussed highly classified material.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin,

former GSS head Yosef Perry and K. the new head, were among the few people present at the meeting - which was later described as stormy and tense.

Ben-Porat presented a report which apparently attacked the GSS for sometimes exceeding the limits on interrogations established by the Landau Commission.

Among the subjects covered in the report was the death of a Palestinian being questioned by the GSS in Gaza three years ago.

Perry refused to speak to reporters when he left the meeting, saying the discussion was top secret.

Later he was quoted as accusing Ben-Porat of not understanding the difficult operational conditions un-

der which the GSS works.

Rabin, who also refused to speak, apparently told the committee the GSS would do everything possible to stay within bounds established by Landau and will improve its own internal supervision procedures.

The report is considered one of the harshest prepared on the GSS, and Rabin stressed it referred to years in which he was not prime minister or defense minister.

Rabin forces party to drop inquiry into stock market collapse

EVERLYN GORDON

A MOTION to set up a state commission of inquiry into the role played by the banks' extension of credit for stock purchases in last year's market collapse was withdrawn yesterday under heavy pressure from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

However, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat said she will consider investigating the matter.

The motion to establish a commission of inquiry, which has already passed the Knesset once by a comfortable margin, was due to come up for the second and final time last night.

But sponsor Shmuel Avital (Labor) withdrew the proposal after a stormy session of the Labor faction meeting and a personal meeting with Rabin.

At the faction meeting, chairman Ra'anan Cohen (Labor) noted that the faction leadership had reached a new decision: No motions to establish commissions of inquiry could be brought for a vote without the prior consent of the faction.

He therefore asked the faction approve this rule and then immediately apply it to Avital's case.

Avital erupted at this suggestion, saying Cohen had promised him the new rule would not be applied retroactively, and the meeting rapidly turned into bedlam.

"Either there is a faction, or you want to break up the faction!" Cohen shouted finally.

Cohen then rammed through a vote in which the faction decided that either Avital should withdraw his motion, or the faction would all vote against it - even though many Labor MKs had voted for the motion when it first came up in the Knesset.

Avital initially said he would not comply, but he later acceded to Rabin's personal request that he do so.

However, Avital said his decision to back down was not due to any promise of governmental action on the subject by Rabin.

"I think the government made a political mistake by... leaving this to the Likud instead of initiating action," he said.

"[But] I know how to count votes... and I don't like to lose." The Likud, meanwhile, is not dropping the issue.

The State Control Committee yesterday discussed a request by Dan Tichon (Likud) to have the state comptroller prepare a special report on the extension of credit by the banks for stock purchases and the reaction of the supervisory authorities to this phenomenon.

"Yesterday I looked at the Bejski Report [on the 1983 bank shares collapse], and I want to say we've deteriorated into the same situation and the same problem," he told the committee.

"The [stock market] crisis isn't an orphan, even though everyone is trying to avoid responsibility for it. As long as the matter isn't investigated, the public's faith in the banking system will not return."

Both the Treasury and the Bank of Israel said they had no objections to having Ben-Porat investigate, though the central bank noted that it was carrying out an investigation of its own.

Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles said that since the affair of the Bank Hapoalim branch in Arad, the number of complaints about the overextension of credit by the banks has risen from 27 to about 100.

Representatives of the banks added that they were also conducting their own investigation, but charged that many of those now blaming the banks for their misfortune were professional traders who understood the risks involved.

Yair Hurvitz, director-general of the comptroller's office, said the comptroller is now in the process of deciding whether or not to investigate the matter, and if so, whether the investigation should be part of the annual comptroller's report or a separate report.

A separate report could serve as a basis for a state commission of inquiry.

Tichon asked that Ben-Porat inform the committee of her decision as quickly as possible.



Tourism Minister Uzi Baram (left) with his counterparts from Egypt and Jordan, Mamdouh Beltagui (center) and Abdel Khatib, speak to the press jointly at the ITB in Berlin, the world's largest tourism fair. (AP)

Jordan, Egypt, Israel speak as one at Berlin tourism fair

HAIM SHAPIRO

BERLIN

TOURISM Minister Uzi Baram yesterday joined his Jordanian and Egyptian counterparts in a precedent-setting joint press conference at ITB, the world's largest international travel and tourism fair.

The three stressed that the peace process was strongly linked to the development of tourism.

"We believe that tourism and peace are twins, and they can help each other," said Egyptian Tourism Minister Dr. Mamdouh Beltagui. He appealed to the German public to

disregard isolated incidents of terrorism and noted that Israeli tourism to Egypt had increased by 72 percent over 1993. "The Israelis are our neighbors and know the situation and know us," Beltagui said. "If they think it is all right, then it must be."

Baram expressed his regret that the Palestinian Authority Tourism Minister Elias Freij had been unable to attend because he is recovering from surgery.

Jordan denies Israelis banned from visiting Aharon's tomb

News agencies

JORDAN yesterday denied that Israeli tourists were specifically banned from visiting Aharon's tomb, near Petra, after reports of desecration there.

Ghassan Mifteh, secretary-general of the Ministry of Tourism, said the tomb was closed to "tourists of all nationalities because of avalanches in that area."

"The measure did not target Israeli tourists," Mifteh told the Associated Press a day after the Israeli government threatened legal action against Israelis, who reportedly defaced the site.

Mifteh acknowledged that on walls near the tomb were the names and signatures of Israelis who visited the site.

He said the tomb had been closed because, "We are studying ways and means to move tourists to that area on safe trails, and in excursions at certain times, to ensure all kinds of safety." The Jordanian minister said that visitors would be able to reach the tomb walking or on horseback, he added.

A local tour operator at Petra said she was unaware of any change:

"Everyone can go to the tomb, people just need a guide because the path is unmarked."

On Sunday, Israel TV showed footage of the desecrated site. It showed modern Hebrew lettering engraved on some ancient stone, near some antique lettering that was partly chiseled away.

Jordanian Tourism Minister Abdel Khatib yesterday told Tourism Minister Uzi Baram that the site had been defaced by a group of religious Israeli tourists. But, he added, he did not take the complaints about Israeli tourists too seriously.

Baram, however, said he takes the complaints very seriously, and has ordered that the possibility of prosecuting the vandals be investigated. The two are in Berlin for ITB, the world's largest international travel and tourism fair.

Itim said that haredi rabbis planned a visit to Jordan this week to negotiate a lift of the reported ban, so they could organize a first annual pilgrimage to the tomb.

More than 18,000 Israeli tourists have visited Jordan since the borders were opened.

Polls show Netanyahu beating Rabin

SARAH HONIG

TWO polls conducted last week, before the latest Histadrut corruption scandal, both predict victory for the Likud's Binyamin Netanyahu over Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, were elections to be held now.

The findings are similar and bolster each other. They are also significant because the polls were taken at a relatively quiet time and were thus uninfluenced by major events, like terrorist attacks.

The first poll, conducted by Modi'in Ezrahi, in which a random sample of 503 people were questioned on February 27, gives Netanyahu 45 percent of the vote and Rabin 35% in a direct confrontation between them. Twenty percent of those questioned gave no preference.

Dahaf polled a random sample of

504 people on February 28 and March 1. Netanyahu was preferred by 44% of the total, Rabin 35%, and 21% had named no preference.

Neither poll was commissioned by a political party.

Both also gave the entire right-religious bloc an advantage over the left-Arab bloc.

According to Modi'in Ezrahi, elections now would give the Likud 42 Knesset seats, Labor 39, Tsomet 7, Meretz 10, NRP 6, Moledet 3, Shas 4, UTJ 4, and the Arab parties 5. In all, 66 Knesset seats go to the right and 54 to the left.

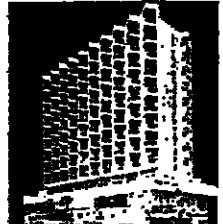
The Dahaf poll predicts 41 Knesset seats for the Likud, 35 for Labor,

10 for Meretz, 8 for Tsomet, 6 for the NRP, 3 for Moledet, 4 for the UTJ, 5 for Shas, 6 for the Arab parties, and 2 for a Russian immigrant party. The right would get 67 seats and the left 51. The politics of a hypothetical immigrant party are unknown.

A Gallup poll, meanwhile, has revealed that almost two-thirds (62.6%) of Israelis believe the government's policy toward holding the PLO to their obligations under the Oslo accord is too conciliatory.

The poll, carried out on behalf of Independent Media Review and Analysis, also found that 47.6% of Israelis believe the involvement of the US in the negotiations between Israel and Syria corresponds with Israel's interests, while 26.1% say it is against Israel's interests.

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